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25 July 1985

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

GCC'S BISHARAH EXPRESSES 'ANXIETY' ABOUT OIL MARKET

LD142019 Vienna OPECNA in English 1554 GMT 14 Jun 85

[Text] Vienna, 14 June 85 (OPECNA)--The current unpredictability of the world oil market is "a source of anxiety," Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah said here today.

He told a news conference that the decline in oil earnings within the GCC--which groups OPEC members Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, 'Qatar and the United Arab Emirates plus Bahrain and Oman--had had a significant impact.

"It has affected not only our social and economic programmes but also our role in the world economy. Of course we are concerned," said Bisharah, who is paying an official goodwill visit to Austria at the invitation of the government.

He said oil market unpredictability meant "an inability to plan, and this gives rise to worries."

Bisharah noted that the oil ministers of the four OPEC countries in the GCC were "very active" in supporting the organization's efforts to stabilize the world oil market.

He said the six GCC countries--which produce more than 15 percent of the world's oil and over 40 percent of global crude reserves--had a programme of coordination in the petroleum sector, an issue which would be discussed by the council's oil ministers at a meeting in July, possibly to be held in At-ta'if.

On the vexed question of European tariff barriers against Gulf Petrochemical exports, Bisharah admitted: "The issue is still there. It has not been resolved."

It was no secret that the European Economic Community (EEC) had "stated unequivocally that at this juncture, there is no possibility of the abolition of such tariffs."

Bisharah pointed out that the access of Gulf petrochemicals to world markets was "of overriding significance and importance. There is no alternative for us but to ensure access for our products."

He emphasized that a free trade policy was part of the charter of the GCC and "eventually, I am sure we will be able to reach a formula" as part of a comprehensive agreement with the EEC involving not only access to markets but also a wide range of issues, including technology and training.

Asked whether the Gulf countries would take retaliatory steps if the EEC refused to modify its tariff policy, Bisharah replied: "It is not wise to talk about retaliatory measures at this juncture. I don't think that would be good diplomacy on my part."

He said talks had been held in Europe last week as part of the ongoing negotiations to resolve the issue, and he planned to travel to the Hague at the week-end to continue the talks.

It was also reported this week that EEC Commissioner Claude Cheysson would visit Gulf countries later this month in an attempt to overcome the deadlock, which centres on a 13.5 percent tariff imposed by the EEC against Gulf-produced petrochemical products.

Bisharah said that in his talks with the Austrian Government, he had impressed on officials the GCC's determination to achieve self-reliance in the context of a policy of non-alignment.

He described non-alignment as "the best prescription for a reduction of tension in the region and the elimination of spheres of influence and rivalry among the superpowers."

The best way to preserve the Gulf's "human heritage," its value as a source of energy, its major participation in the world economy and its contributions to international institutions was through self-reliance, Bisharah declared.

He said the GCC's aim of economic integration was "a very difficult process, but "we are just 4 years old and we are progressing."

Bisharah expressed satisfaction with the expansion of cooperation between Austria and the GCC, including an increase in exchange of visits and the volume of trade.

He added that his discussions with government officials, including President Dr Rudolf Kirchschlaeger and Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz, had touched on bilateral relations, topics related to the Gulf region and issues of global concern.

CSO: 4400/186

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

ARAB ORGANIZATION, CEMA AGREEMENT--The Arab Economic Unity Council [AEUC] Secretariat and CEMA concluded an agreement on technical and scientific cooperation in Amman today. AEUC Secretary General Dr Mahdi al-'Ubaydi told an INA correspondent in Amman that the agreement defines cooperation and exchange of expertise in scientific and technical areas, as well as in planning, industry, agriculture, and environment. [Summary] [Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jun 85 JN]

CSO: 4400/189

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

TURKISH COMMENT ON REFUSAL BY U.S. CONGRESS OF ARMENIAN BILL

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 5 Jun 85 pp 1,4

[Text] The Resolution No 192 prepared by California Representative Tony Coelho and his friends aimed at recognizing officially 24 April as a day of remembrance of Armenian victims of World War I was put to vote yesterday in the House of Representatives, after lengthy adjournments and was rejected by decision of the presidency, having failed to receive two thirds of the general vote.

First, the roll-call of all those present was taken and there were around 420 representatives. The resolution presented by Tony Coelho was put to vote and although it had assured more than 230 votes, it was rejected in accordance with the by-laws, as the number of voters in its favor fell short of the two-thirds of the members. Before the vote, the twelve members of the Committee of the Armed Forces Services of the United States who had recently visited Turkey published an open letter addressed to the members of the House reminding them that "if the Resolution were adopted a great injustice would be committed against a loyal and true friend and ally country and its people. Besides, the adoption of the Resolution would serve no useful or constructive purpose except to offend an allied nation."

The members of the said Committee stressed that "if the House of Representatives voted in favor of the Resolution, it would commit a tragic and regrettable error" and as a result called upon all to reject it. The eleven members of the Committee pointed out too that the Resolution appealed only to a "handful of voters" and was founded on a "nationalistic policy" and represented only a limited value and importance. The appeal said that "Turkey is that ally in NATO who, more than anyone else, has always stood and continues to stand by our side" and that this Resolution, if ratified, "would mean striking a heavy and insulting blow at a country that is our friend and ally."

It is worth noting that among those who had signed the appeal was the name Melvin Price who had previously signed the Resolution prepared by Tony Coelho.

On the other hand, it is reported that the Turkish Ambassador to Washington Shukri Elekdog had been very active in the last few days and had had several meetings reminding all that approval of the Resolution would jeopardize Turkish-American relations.

News agencies report that at present there is another Armenian resolution on the agenda of the Congress of the United States while two other resolutions await signature in the House of Representatives.

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

ARMENIANS REPORTEDLY RESORT TO DIPLOMACY INSTEAD OF VIOLENCE

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 8 Jun 85 pp 1, 4

[Text] ANKARA--There are signs that recently Armenian terrorism aimed at Turkish diplomats and Turkish institutions has begun to decrease because it appears that Armenians have changed their strategy. They appear to have given up the resort to violence and to have opted for international politics in the pursuit of their struggle.

Thus, after attracting world attention, through their acts of violence, for a supposed "Armenian Genocide", they are now active in political circles, especially since as a result of the events in Lebanon, they have lost their military centers. At the same time, the Massacre at Orly gave rise to an international reaction against Armenian terrorism and to the loss of sympathy towards Armenians and their cause. That is why the Armenians are now changing their tactics, and to escape international approbation, they now want to "legalize" their cause and are engaged in activating this policy on a massive scale. It is reported in international circles that the Armenians have prepared a special timetable for this purpose, such as the American Congress in June 1985, the United Nations Assembly in August and in October the meetings of the European Parliament. The Armenians have succeeded in placing their cause on the agendas of all these organizations, and although at the last minute they failed in the American Congress, the others continue to retain a disquieting nature. That is why the Minister of Foreign Affairs Vahid Halefoglou announced yesterday that he would do everything in his power to inform all that the Armenian assertions are false. He added that he is keeping in close touch with his colleagues in order to convince them of these facts.

12364
CSO: 4605/178

EGYPT

HUSAYN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON VIEWED

PM111123 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 8 Jun 85 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Mubarak to Contact Husayn After His Return to Amman"]

[Text] AKHBAR AL-YAWM has learned that President Husni Mubarak will contact King Husayn after the latter's return to Amman following his talks in Washington and London.

King Husayn has achieved some positive results in his talks with the U.S. side which will give a new impetus to the Jordanian-Palestinian initiative. The Jordanian monarch has obtained U.S. agreement in principle to hold a dialogue with the Palestinian side, provided the Palestinian representatives are supporters of the peace process and not advocate Israel's destruction.

Agreement has in fact been reached on a list of names, but the full details have not been published yet. King Husayn has also managed to convince the United States that the idea of an international conference is not a rigid one and that such a conference would be an international umbrella which would not prevent direct negotiations with the Palestinians.

The Jordanian and Palestinian sides are putting some emphasis on international conference because they do not want the Arab states to accuse them of seeking a unilateral settlement.

The Soviet Union might refuse to attend an international conference because of U.S. and Israeli conditions, which include immediate restoration of diplomatic relations between Moscow and Tel Aviv, opening the way for the emigration of Soviet Jews, and withholding aid from Arab extremists.

CSO: 4500/146

EGYPT

GOVERNMENT TREATMENT OF OPPOSITION PARTIES DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 May 85 pp 1, 11

[Article by Mustafa Shardi: "What I Expect from the President of all Egyptians"]

[Text] I expected of President Husni Mubarak that he would seek to arrange meetings with members of the parliamentary organization of the Wafd Party similar to the meetings which were held with deputies of the National Party, because Husni Mubarak is president not only of the National Party, but he is also, above and beyond this, president of all Egyptians, and this duty rests upon him. Even though the Wafd deputies are now a minority in the Peoples' Assembly, they are associated with a party which rests on large, firmly established and broad popular bases of great depth. On the day of the 1981 plebiscite, millions of the sons of Egypt who stand under the banner of this deeply-rooted and venerable party went to participate in the confirmation of Mubarak as president of Egypt. By this public position, they placed themselves in the realm of rights and responsibilities and under the protection of the presidency. The most prominent of the rights of these citizens is that their words (which are some of Egypt's words) reach the presidency, and that their problems (which are part of the nation's problems) are put before the leadership, and that there be channels and bridges between them and the executive and political peak and decision-making authority. Certainly, the Wafd popular bases see in their deputies, who fought and struggled to send a group of them to opposition seats in the People's Assembly, certainly these masses see in their deputies a straight channel and a sturdy bridge by which their opinion is able to flow and their problems, issues and suggestions are able to pass to the office of the presidency.

I expected the president to give some time to Wafd deputies, not because they have a claim on him in terms of his being president of the republic, but because meetings such as these, limited to opposition parties, are beneficial and have a good return, to the political leadership, firstly; to Egypt, secondly; to democratic practice, thirdly; and to the participants, finally. This is because Mubarak, in meetings with the opposition, will sense on the spot a flavor different from that of his meetings with supporters. He will hear a greater variety of opinions and suggestions. He will sense the orientations of the masses before him, without the coloration of reports,

without word games, subterfuge or circumlocution. An incorrect understanding of party duty might place a serious limitation on the tongues of the government deputies during their meetings with the president. But the situation is different with the Wafd deputies. They are deeply respectful and truly appreciative of the person of the president, but at the same time loyalty to Egypt requires them to approach conversations with the president with candor, frankness, courage and clarity.

It has pleased us that the president has given witness to the parliamentary opposition and that he has praised some of its positions under the dome of the Peoples' Assembly, especially since almost a year has passed since the elections and the beginning of the democratic process, which no just man can deny is movement toward the better, and about which the president said, on Workers' Day, "we are very proud of it and we value it with all due respect." But I expected that Egypt would move toward a "2d democratic year" after its success in the 1st year. It has escaped many negative aspects which were clear in the previous stage, but which will not be permitted in the coming stage.

I expected, and still expect, President Mubarak to end the disgraceful media discrimination between the ruling National Party and the opposition parties, which finds expression in many practical ways. Perhaps the people notice most of the, and are amazed and scoff and are displeased. There is no Egyptian citizen, for example, who does not know the story of the strict conditions which the minister of information imposes on arguments in the Peoples' Assembly on newspapers, radio and television. These include silencing the opposition voice, or not carrying it at all; or, when an opposition deputy appears on television presenting an opinion, he is blurred, poorly transmitted and difficult to understand. The goal of all of this which the information czar has fashioned, or which he naively implements for the sake of his party, is that the Egyptian people believe that the opposition is mute and without substance and that the National Party is the sole Egyptian spokesperson. But the ruling party and its communications minister czar do not notice that all Egyptians are aware of the game and watch it in great anger.

I expected, and still expect, President Mubarak to consider, with the eyes of an ordinary citizen, how the "national" press, which is said to be "free" and not subject to "guidelines," treats the parties of Egypt. Headlines are written about and pages devoted to the news of the National Party, to details of its meetings, interviews of its leaders, activity of its committees, to the most insignificant of its news. Editors-in-chief themselves are in charge of coverage of the simplest occasion of the National Party. At the same time, not a single "national" newspaper is about to publish a report, even if only once a month, about a meeting of the Wafd Party, a conference of the Labor Party, a resolution by the Grouping Party, or activity of this or that party. These same "national" newspapers try to beat one another to publishing what is thought to be news of the split in the Wafd Party or the differences in the Grouping Party. Pages are devoted to journalistic events which have a despicable goal, such as attempts to sow the seeds of discord among the leaderships of the opposition parties, or fabricating battles and

conflicts in press statements. It is strange that the magazines which have been involved in such efforts, to the ruling party's account, have been discounted by the people and their circulation has fallen to alarming numbers. The magazine AL-MUSAWWAR is a distressing example of this.

I expected, and still expect, President Mubarak to instruct the ministers of the National Party that the minister who complies with a request from a Wafd deputy will not be dismissed, whipped or hanged. National duty requires that they deal justly with the deputies, regardless of party affiliation. The deputy who knocks on a minister's door carrying in his hand complaints of the citizens or requests of a group of people is striving to fulfill a sacred duty which is at the core of his duties. With all respect to those who say, "the duty of deputies is solely legislative," this saying might apply to Britain, France or the other Western democracies where the basic rights of the simplest of citizens are available and authority does not venture to encroach on them. But the situation is different in Egypt, where problems have been transformed into lawsuits, human relations into a jungle and where rights have disappeared, trampled underfoot, until Egypt has become more like a fixed arena of continual political, economic and social ills. In its remote areas cries, moans and deaths rattles occasionally ring out. How can a deputy represent the people, travel about among all this horror, and then shrug his shoulders at the people, dismissing their complaints on the pretext that he is a "legislator" and that he solves problems and ends pain by means of new laws and legislation alone. It is a duty of every minister to understand the reality of the situation and to open his door to give his time to the deputies, without exception or regard to party affiliation. Even if the minister allots 1 hour per week to meeting with members of the Peoples' Assembly, duty, fairness and moral obligation all compel him to divide this hour among the deputies of his own party and the deputies of the opposition. The current picture is not considered acceptable in any case.

I expected President Mubarak to intervene to break the economic boycott of the Egyptian opposition newspapers. I heard the president say, in an international press conference held in Cairo, "Economic pressure is the most serious thing that can be done to interfere with the press." I say to President Mubarak, "The opposition press is subject to strong economic pressure and an advertising blockade." It is true that the pressure of the boycott has eased somewhat over the months, but it still exists. It is also true that some ministers and a few officials, who have not lost their dignity or courage of decision due to fear of the party, have placed part of their ministries' and organizations' advertising with the party newspapers. However, the great majority of the ministers and officials hold fast to the circle of fear, which they see as a fortress of security; they look at the minister who advertises in a party newspaper as if he were an irresponsible person.

I say that AL-WAFD, due to its large circulation and tremendous distribution, including entry into one-half million homes where it remains in the hands of family members for a week, has been able to penetrate this blockade somewhat. During these last months, advertisements have rained down on it from those who want to use this powerful advertising medium. However, it

can still be said that the blockade is not considered acceptable in a "2nd democratic year." It must be lifted from all of the party newspapers. The ministries and public sector organizations are considered the primary sources of advertisements for the Egyptian newspapers. From what I know, constitutionally, the party that wins the election assumes control of government agencies only. It does not control the banks or the companies and it does not have the right to control a private newspaper or to punish it by boycotting it economically.

In truth and fairness, and I know this positively and with complete confidence, President Mubarak and Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the prime minister, and some of the leaders of the National Party hold viewpoints opposed to this. I know that this party of distinguished men does not approve of even a slight form of an advertising boycott of the opposition press. I also know that some minor officials in some positions are waiting for the green light from the prominent men.

Finally...

I have explained some of the points which have occupied my mind, without organization, ahead of others. I thought that beginning a "2nd democratic year" in the era of Husni Mubarak makes frankness such as this incumbent. If I touched on details it is necessary that they be among the concerns of the president of the republic, for he is president of all Egyptians, of all parties. If we have noticed some of the flaws in the democratic arena, which is the peak of public concern, national security compels us to the president's frankness, especially since all of the results are, in the end, positively or negatively, due to the particular situation of Egypt, and will, historically, remain in Husni Mubarak's account.

12780

CSO: 4504/380

EGYPT

SHAYKH SALAH ABU ISMA'IL DISCUSSES SHARI'AH

Doha AL-'AHD in Arabic 4 Jun 85 pp 23-26

[Interview with Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il by Salih Zaytun: "Application of Islamic Shari'ah in Egypt Inevitable; Application of Shari'ah Offers Guarantees to Copts and Economists and Curbs Violators of Honor"; in Doha, date not specified]

[Text] The spiritual climate of Ramadan adds an extra dimension to the interaction of developments in Egypt whereby religion is mixed with politics. This is exactly the purpose of Egyptian Islamic action leaders who have openly declared their call for the application of the Islamic Shari'ah. One such leader Shaykh Hafiz Salamah, called for a huge peaceful march on the presidential palace on the 16th of the current month of Ramadan to ask President Husni Mubarak to open the doors of debate in the People's Assembly for the application of the Shari'ah. This is opposed by some currents while other currents are trying to penetrate the call itself under the slogans of purification and gradual application.

Here in Doha we took advantage of the presence of Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il, member of the Egyptian People's Assembly and a leader of Islamic action in Egypt, who is here to participate in the guidance and spiritual counsel program in Qatar during Ramadan, in order to open the doors of dialogue with him about the matter of applying the Shari'ah in Egypt and the chances of the call's success in confronting official rejection. Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il surprised us with the fact that although he supported the application of the Shari'ah within the state's legitimate framework, he opposed Shaykh Hafiz Salamah's call for the march.

Our dialogue touched on all of the various Islamic concerns and worries in the current phase. We will leave it up to the interview to reveal Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il positions on them.

[Question] The issue of issues in Egypt today, the repercussions of which will be felt by the Arab world as well, is the application of the Islamic Shari'ah in Egypt. How do you view this matter and what are the chances for its actual realization?

[Answer] The Islamic Shari'ah is the rule of God, who guarantees justice, security, stability and peace. Its application is a fulfillment of the

contemporary societies' aspiration to economic prosperity which God tied to faith when he said: "If the people of the towns had believed and feared God, we should indeed have opened out to them (all kinds) of blessings from heaven and earth." The Shari'ah guarantees desired victory in God's saying: "Ye who believe! If ye will aid (the cause of) God, He will aid you and plant your feet firmly." It also guarantees unity which saves us from division and fragmentation through God's saying: "The believers are but a single brotherhood." The Shari'ah also provides a guarantee for peace from these continuous flaming wars between Iraq and Iran. God said: "If two parties among believers fall into a quarrel, make ye peace between them; but if one of them transgresses beyond bounds against the other, then fight ye (all) against the one who transgresses until he complies with the command of God. But if he complies, then make peace between him with justice, and be fair, for God loves those who are fair (and just)."

The Islamic Shari'ah regulates international relations evenly, despite the different doctrines, in light of God's saying: "God forbids you not, with regard to those who fight you not for (your) faith nor drive you out of your homes, from dealing kindly and justly with them, for God loveth those who are just. God only forbids you, with regard to those who fight you (for your) faith, and drive you out of your homes, and support (others) in driving you out, from turning to them (for friendship and protection). It is such as to turn to them (in these circumstances) who do wrong."

The Shari'ah protects against hunger, fear and worry to the same extent it punishes the ungrateful violators, for God said: "God sets forth a parable: a city enjoying security and quiet and abundantly supplies with sustenance from every place yet was ungrateful for the favors of God, so God made it taste of hunger and terror (in extremes) (closing in on it) like a garment (from every side), because of the (evil) which (its people) wrought."

The Shari'ah, as God's provisions drawn from the Koran and the Sunna, is justice free of oppression, right not mixed with wrong, light not adulterated with darkness. Nonetheless, it does not force anyone to espouse Islam but rather holds sacred the freedom of the individual to espouse whatever religion he pleases: "Say, 'the truth is from your Lord'; let him who will, believe and let him who will, reject."

Moreover, this Shari'ah ruled Egypt for 13 centuries and was dislodged only by colonialism when it descended upon us toward the end of the 19th century. It was natural that with the disappearance of British military colonialism, its traces, which are represented in the positive laws that invalidated the legal punishments, should also vanish. The public street is terrorized due to the absence of the legal punishment for violent acts. The people fear for their property due to the absence of the legal punishment for robbery. The destructive elements of alcohol are unleashed against the heedless productive elements due to the absence of the legal punishment for drinking. Honor is violated due to the absence of legal punishment for adultery, and honor and reputations are destroyed due to the absence of the legal punishment for slander. Our holy things are being manipulated due to the absence of the legal punishment for apostasy and our economy is destroyed because of usury and other things.

There is no doubt that our situation with the Zionists and our Arab and Muslim brothers and the internal stability we seek have their desired guarantees in the application of the Islamic Shari'ah.

We have made great headway in the field of codification. The Islamic Shari'ah is now ready, from the legal standpoint, for application in the civil, penal, economic, social, legal, commercial, maritime and other fields.

These laws have been prepared by a faithful elite of learned men of science and law. They have been reviewed by the Court of Cassation to ascertain if common legal terms are used and by Islamic jurisprudence committees at the Islamic Research Council of al-Azhar University to ascertain the accuracy of the jurisprudence provisions. Moreover, the People's Assembly, satisfied with this great accomplishment, referred all these actions to the assembly's constitutional and legal affairs committee on 1 July 1982 to prepare a report on them in preparation for their implementation as laws following their promulgation by the People's Assembly through its legislative channels and their ratification by the president of the republic. This is a great feat on which the broad masses in Egypt and throughout the entire Islamic world have pinned their hopes.

However, we were unexpectedly sidetracked by events and problems in the Sudan and by Iran and its current regime's rejection of peace with Iraq, which was inclined toward peace, as the whole world knows, although God said: "But if the enemy inclines toward peace, doth thou (also) incline toward peace, and trust in God, for He is the One that heareth and knoweth (all things)? Should they intend to deceive these, verily God sufficeth thee." Islam has been unjustly held responsible for the invalidation of this legal provision by personal opinion and whim in fashion now, being witnessed by the world: the shedding of blood, the destruction of life, the ruin of capabilities, the squandering of money and the conflagration between two Muslim people, while the Zionist enemy is enjoying just the proper climate for its contentiousness, aggression, tyranny, conspiracies and espionage.

We in Egypt were distressed by the total disregard exhibited by Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, president of the Egyptian People's Assembly, toward the great accomplishments of the previous assembly in the field of codification. He led the move to what he called the codification of current laws, which is in violation of the Islamic Shari'ah. We were also distressed by the Wafd Party, which represents the opposition in the assembly, when it advocated the line of the majority with regard to the Islamic Shari'ah. It is strange that opposition leader Mr Mumtaz Nassar should advocate this line, forgetting that he chaired one of the Islamic Shari'ah codification committees. Yes, he ignored his accomplishment and called for embarking on the 1,000-mile trip once again by one step, as he put it. All my attempts to remind him, in the People's Assembly session, of what he ignored and omitted were to no avail. So we had to go to the political street to talk to the people and inform public opinion in Egypt that the great majority of deputies betrayed their trust when they ignored the great accomplishment in the field of Islamic Shari'ah codification and closed the door to debate in this regard, deciding to codify laws currently in effect, as they put it, and the pretext of preparing the appropriate

climate. My reply to them in the People's Assembly was that the referendums undertaken by the government revealed a consensus by the Egyptian people to apply the Islamic Shari'ah. They employed gradual application as an excuse and my reply to them was that they were subjecting the Islamic Shari'ah to a selection process, picking what pleased them and leaving out what did not catch their fancy. They used deliberateness as an excuse, so I told them that the Islamic message was conveyed for 23 years while Egypt has been living on promises since the July 1952 revolution, and gaining nothing but disappointment in the Islamic fields. I attributed our economic hardships, military weakness and social unrest to the absence of the Shari'ah, for God said: "Because God will never change the grace which He hath bestowed on a people until they change what is in their (own) souls...." I tried to awaken in them a desire for reform through God's saying: "Verily never will God change the condition of a people until they change it themselves."

[Question] We interpret your analysis of the dimensions of the call as an attempt to ignore Shaykh Hafiz Salamah's calls for a popular march on the last Friday of Ramadan. Do you see any need for that, and why?

[Answer] I had to expose those tactics which combine the profession of a belief in God and the hereafter with a tenacious adherence to the laws which violate God's religion. They also combine their proclaimed desire for reform with their painful refusal to further the words of God. We reminded them of God's saying: "But no, by the Lord, they can have no (real) faith, until they make Thee judge in all disputes between them and find in their souls no resistance against Thy decisions, but accept them with the fullest conviction." What added to my pain and distress were statements by American officials and their press against the Islamic Shari'ah and their conspiracies against those who are calling for its application in Egypt and elsewhere. We, the Islamic members of the People's Assembly, decided to worship on the last Friday of Sha'ban past at al-Nur Mosque in al-'Abbasiyah, Cairo. My brothers decided that I should deliver the sermon, that we should notify the news agencies and that the deputies should take turns addressing the people after the prayer, to tell them that they were required to hold their deputies accountable and warn them of withdrawing their confidence from them at the appropriate time if they did not correct the situation with regard to the Shari'ah in their capacity as the legislative power. Thereupon, Hajj Hafiz Salamah, who is known for his heroism in the popular resistance against Zionist aggression against Egypt, announced that he had sent a warning to the Egyptian interior minister that if the People's Assembly did not reopen the door of debate on the Islamic Shari'ah and come to a decision to embrace the implementation of the Islamic bills prepared by the previous assembly, a peaceful march would go to the president of the republic to demand the application of the Islamic Shari'ah on the grounds that the submission of bills to the People's Assembly is a right guaranteed by the constitution to the president, the ministers and the deputies who are members of the legislative power. The objective was to urge the president to take the initiative, as the head of state and of the ruling party, in embracing the Islamic bills which only need ratification. On this occasion, I am happy to inform you that I promptly submitted these bills, signed by me and nine other deputies--the maximum number allowed by the People's Assembly bylaws--so that al-Mahjub could not say that the assembly did not have Islamic bills.

The question is, will they take them up? There is no force on earth that can force them to take them up until they receive an order from the president. Only then can we guarantee the elimination of obstacles and barriers. Al-Sadat, through his presidential decree, was able to bypass the constitution through the promulgation of Personal Statute Law No 44 of 1979, despite its unconstitutionality, according to the Constitutional Court in Egypt. I asked my colleagues, however, to collect 100 or more signatures on a paper demanding the reopening of debate on the topic of the Islamic Shari'ah to avoid a mass demonstration of unknown consequences. I learned that large contingents of security men and soldiers surrounded the mosque during the first Friday of Ramadan and that Hajj Salamah exercised wisdom when he postponed the march to the last Friday and turned to the Administrative Justice Court, which set a date of 4 June 1985 to rule on the people's right to undertake this march, as guaranteed by the constitution. I hope to hear any moment now that President Mubarak has decided to submit the Islamic bills to the People's Assembly to spare the people the troubles of the march and to refute the allegations that the ruling party imposes on its deputies positions which are incompatible with the aspirations of the masses who are seeking the application of the Islamic Shari'ah. I hope that people are confident of the fact that "God is He Who gives (all) sustenance--Lord of Power--steadfast (forever)," that "there is no help except from God" and that neither the Eastern Bloc nor the Western Bloc can do anything for us.

[Question] Do you expect the demonstration, if undertaken, to pass without any serious ramifications or a clash between the police and the people?

[Answer] In all my popular encounters, I advised the young people to avoid clashes between themselves and the Egyptian police. I hope that Egyptian blood will not be shed by Egyptian weapons. I think that if the march did occur, it is no secret that it will give the impression that the people wanted it. I will send a message from Qatar to Hajj Hafiz Salamah, asking him to cancel the march. I have talked on the phone with my son, asking him to convey this message.

[Question] Don't you think that the application of the Shari'ah will meet with obstacles in view of the presence of a good number of Copts in Egypt and of the troubled situation in the Egyptian economy, which is caught between socialism and the open-door policy? Perhaps modling it into an Islamic framework will return it to square one. So how do you perceive the post-application horizons and how do you reply to the Egyptian government's arguments against your call?

[Answer] First, the government thinks that the application of the Shari'ah will anger our Coptic citizens. This is totally unacceptable based on Pope Shenudah's admission to former President Anwar al-Sadat and the Egyptian press that non-Muslims enjoyed full rights only in the eras when the Islamic Shari'ah flourished. I believe there is no need to quote Koranic verses and historical events to substantiate this.

Second, the government thinks its economic situation will worsen should America adopt a position in reaction to the application of the Shari'ah. God said: "Never will the Jews or Christians be satisfied with thee unless thou

follow their form of religion." Basing the realization of this matter on America's satisfaction renders the application of the Shari'ah an impossible task.

Third, the government measures the application of the Shari'ah by the results of such an endeavor in Sudan and Iran. We say that Islam has claims on the people, but the people have no claims on Islam.

Fourth, it may escape some of the officials that Islam is the best guarantee for the hopes of our society because of what we have already pointed out regarding the economic, social, military and other fields.

Fifth, some mass media secularists are calling for the separation of religion and politics and of church and state, either out of their ignorance of Islam or their confusion between Islam and something else. These people disturb the general climate even though it goes without saying that Islam is a religion and a state.

Sixth, it may escape some people that Islam guarantees the five necessities, which are self-preservation, procreation, mind, prosperity and religion.

Seventh, those who rejoice over the suspension of the Shari'ah are the violators of honor, the thieves, the highwaymen, the alcoholics and all the sinners and apostates. We should not heed these people.

[Question] Sudan embarked on the application of the Shari'ah, the Numayri way. This wrong practice led to the coup and new developments in the Sudan which is bound to Egypt by the integration treaty, which may reflect positively or negatively on Egypt. How are you preparing yourself for it?

[Answer] When I look at the Sudanese people, I do not forget the march that included more than 1 million persons despite all the obstacles it encountered, such as the opening of the Omdurman bridge, the lack of gasoline for cars, the fact that the participants came from faraway places and the heat. The word of the Sudanese people was more eloquent than anything said in the September 1984 conference. Moreover, this march was followed by conflicting allegations, the truth of which is known only to God. Some said that al-Numayri snubbed the Islamicists following this demonstration; others alleged that the communists and deviationists were lying in wait; and some talked about a rebellion in southern Sudan, the tightening of the American grip, the exodus of the drought victims to neighboring countries, higher prices and lower incomes, the fall of the pound and the position of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi which was denounced by his group, which aspires to Islam. All these are strange factors which have emerged and conspired against the direction that has not yet been firmly established. Nonetheless, I am confident that the ancient faithful people of Sudan will not in any way shirk their responsibility in applying the Shari'ah. I remind them of God's saying: "Do men think that they will be left alone in saying, 'We believe,' and that they will not be tested? We did test those before them, and God will certainly know those who are true from those who are false."

[Question] The Palestinian people are fighting a fierce battle to preserve their existence, their cause and their resolution. The last battle is the one they are fighting in Beirut with the Amal Movement. How do you view this matter from an Islamic viewpoint?

[Answer] It befits the Amal Movement to call itself a Zionist movement in a new garb. Otherwise, what excuse does it have to work for Zionism along the path of Sharon, Begin and the Zionist criminals?

To whose advantage is it shedding blood, killing innocent people, attacking women and children, covering the Zionists' backs and shattering Arab and Islamic hopes?

The truth is that I was surprised by the union between the Amal militias and the Syrian regime. I am most surprised by the absence of a deterrent force which should have been there to reflect the Arab and Islamic hopes of rooting out the perpetrators who emerge with Arab foes and Zionist hearts, carrying Zionist weapons in Arab and Islamic hands. It is so ironic. How long are we going to keep on clinging to words of denunciation and condemnation that are mere ink on paper? Where are the faithful battalions that are supposed to punish and root out the vipers if we want our front to get rid of these burdens so that it may meet its responsibility of liberating the land, saving our honor and punishing the tyrants.

[Question] Going back to Egypt, this time from the angle of its continual link to the Zionist enemy via the peace treaty and the continued exchange of official visits by officials from both sides, which has frustrated the hopes of those who are yearning for Egypt's return to its Arab and Islamic environment. How do you assess this matter?

[Answer] Our talk about Egyptian-Israeli relations must be confined to the legitimate channels in the People's Assembly in view of its being the power that has the constitutional right to legislate and oversee the government. I am not one to encourage forces outside this framework, which treats evil with greater evil and damage with more damage. I find solace in the fact that I was among the loudest voices which rejected the al-Sadat initiative and the Camp David accords, and time has bolstered my faith in this stance. Indeed, those who at one time promoted the Camp David agreement now say that it is useless and is nothing but ink on paper.

I believe the Egyptian government has its own vision of how to deal with the Camp David aftermath. I think the government sees things from where it stands which I cannot see from where I stand. Whereas I have disagreed with my government on some tactics, I am confident that President Husni Mubarak, who stood the test in the 1973 war, is faithful to our hopes for liberation and for a united Arab and Islamic front. My expectations in this regard are boundless.

12502

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EGYPT

CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 6 May 85 p 8

[Commentary by Wahid Ghazi: "Who Are You"]

[Text] Are you a communist, or a Nasirite or a Muslim Brother? If you are one of these, the other parties will rush against you in fierce battle, heaping accusations on you. The communists and the Nasirites accuse the Brotherhood of extremism and fanaticism. The Brotherhood accuses the communists of being agents and the Nasirites of dictatorship and seeking to impose one opinion and to return to the days of jails and detention camps! If you are not a communist or a Nasirite or a Muslim Brother, then you must be a reactionary, wanting to return to the era before the revolution and to the parties before the revolution, in the forefront of which was the Wafd.

But the Wafd Party recently opened up to the left, and added to its candidate lists for the lawyers union elections which took place this past week a number of Nasirite and even radical communists, and excluded individuals from the old-line Wafd!

If you are not one of these, then you must be a Sadatist, believing in the open door policy and sanctioning the wave of arrests which occurred during the last days of Sadat. Then all of the other parties will attack you.

If you do not belong to any of these currents, no one can believe it, as if these currents were religions and you must believe in one of them so that you are not a heretic!

All of these currents have been subjects of flurries of intellectual rapprochement, so they have become two large currents: the Nasirites and the communists on the one side, and all of the other movements on the other side. The battle between the parties began to take the form of attacks in the party newspapers then broke out in some of the national newspapers, while the rest of the Egyptians, not members of any of these currents, stood by as spectators. In fact, they represent the majority, and they follow the attacks against the two currents without interest because they revolve around a simple accusation of party against party, which the party attacked does not dispute. The rightist current accuses certain leaders in certain places of Nasirism. What is the value of these accusations?

Nothing! The communists and the Nasirites accuse the others of wanting to continue the policy of Sadat or of wanting to turn the country back without explaining anything more about this!

In the morass of the battle between the communists and Nasirites and the other opposed movements, the Muslim Brotherhood is quietly seeking to gain places in the elections of the professional unions, the lawyers union, having won positions in the elections for the Peoples' Assembly and the Students' Union. The Brotherhood is the clearest of the currents in its demands, which focus on and revolve around the application of Islamic shari'a principles. The demands or programs of the other currents are not clearly outlined; rather, some of them obscure completely their true demands. The communists, for example, are not demanding that the parties be abolished in favor of one single party. This is the first principle of communism, but they are deferring this demand until they are sure that this single party will be their party. And this will never happen in Egypt.

The Nasirites do not want to declare their demands openly. Do they want to return to the time before 1971? Do they want to return to the time of only one opinion? Do they sanction nationalization? They are not, for example, raising slogans of an economic lock-up, but they are attacking the open door policy!

The problem is that all of the partisans of these movements do not believe in the time factor. The Nasirites want to return to the time of Nasir's regime, disregarding the developments that have occurred in Egypt since the October war and the proliferation of parties.

The Sadatists want to convince the world that the Sadat regime is still pervasive in Egypt, in spite of the many changes that have taken place during the passage of 4 years.

The Muslim Brotherhood wants to convince the people that all problems may be solved only by application of the principles of the Islamic shari'a.

Others try to convince the people of the ease of life before the revolution without Nasirism, Sadatism or the Brotherhood.

The people are not interested in this or that. The people are waiting for someone who will offer practical solutions to their problems and they are not interested in whether the solution is Nasirite, Sadatist, Muslim Brotherhood or rightist on the one condition that the solution not retreat from democracy and freedom. Who, then, will be able to offer these solutions? This requires that the partisans of these currents abandon their partisanship and open their minds to logic, competing to offer solutions to Egypt's problems rather than competing to show the shortcoming of one after the other.

A simple desire, which I hope will be realized.

EGYPT

OPPOSITION COMMENTS ON PERSONAL STATUS LAW

Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 23 May 85 p 5

/Commentary by Dr Wahid Ra'fat: "Supreme Constitutional Court Ruling on Unconstitutionality of Personal Status Decree"/

/Text/ 1.--The Form

Law No 44 of 1979, promulgated through the amendment of some personal status provisions, caused a great outcry and varying reactions when President al-Sadat issued it by presidential decree on 20 January 1979. Its enforcement was advantageous to some and harmful to others. But when its constitutionality was challenged and the Supreme Constitutional Court /SCS/ accepted this challenge, it took a hard fall some 6 years after it came into force. The opinion of the SCS confirmed that the court did not go into the relevant clauses of that ill-fated decree and did not in the least follow any of its provisions with a decision for or against. It focused all its attention on one thing and one thing only: the right of the president of the republic and the head of the executive power to promulgate such a legislative decree in the absence of the People's Assembly (following the decision to dissolve it in April 1979 and before the new People's Assembly reconvened following the May and June elections of that same year), which President al-Sadat, his government and his advisors based on the well-known provision in the existing constitution, Art 147. /This provision/ stipulates that "if, in the absence of the People's Assembly, something should come up that requires the prompt adoption of measures that cannot be delayed, the president of the republic may issue pertinent decrees having the force of law. These decrees must be submitted to the People's Assembly within 15 days from the date of their promulgation if the assembly is in session, or during its first meeting in the event that it is dissolved or in recess. Failure to comply with this procedure nullifies their legality retroactively without the need for issuing a decree in this regard. If they are submitted and the assembly does not ratify them, their legality is rendered null and void retroactively, unless the assembly decides to sanction their enforcement during the previous period or to settle their consequences some other way."

It is clear from this provision that the president's power to issue decrees having the force of law in the absence of the People's Assembly, be it due to the assembly being on its annual break following the conclusion of its ordinary session or to its dissolution or adjournment in accordance with the provisions

of the constitution, is an extraordinary power to be judiciously exercised only in dealing with new developments requiring the prompt adoption of swift measures that cannot be delayed until the assembly, the primary legislative power, reconvenes so that they can be submitted for debate and ratification! Necessity, and only necessity, justifies the violation of a basic principle in contemporary parliamentary democracies: the principle of separation of powers, the executive and legislative power in particular. Hence, the exercise of the executive power to legislate decrees having the force of law in the absence of the parliamentary body must be limited to the narrowest boundaries!

This is what all the previous constitutional provisions, corresponding to the current Art 147, intended to emphasize, including the Royal Constitution of 19 April 1923. I refer to Art 41 of that constitution which was often abused before the revolution by the king and his ministers, especially those of the minority parties, to pass some desired legislation in the absence of parliament to avoid their rejection in the form they were submitted or their obstruction. It is presumed, theoretically at least, that parliament or the People's Assembly is the legal protector of its constitutional powers and jurisdiction, which it must not forsake. Thereupon, the executive power is not allowed to impair or sap its legislative competence in accordance with an extraordinary provision according it the right to legislate in its absence, especially since all the constitutions referred to above, including Art 147 of the current constitution, stipulate that decrees must be submitted to the assembly within 15 days from the date of their promulgation or during the assembly's first meeting, whatever the case may be, for ratification or rejection! Prior to the revolution, some Wafdist parliaments at times encountered some difficulties in abrogating decree laws (ordinances) promulgated in their absence in violation of the constitution at the hands of minority governments, so they confirmed their abrogation out of respect for constitutional legality while settling their consequences by means of a law to limit the repercussions of the abrogation with regard to such rights or conditions of others as may have been created by their enforcement. Hence the choice provided in Art 147 of the current constitution and in corresponding clauses in the postrevolution constitution to the People's Assembly, when drawing up such decree laws, to approve or disapprove them "while sanctioning their previous enforcement or settling their consequences some other way," as stipulated in the core of the article, as we have seen!

It has been noted, from the practical standpoint, that parliament does not refuse to sanction decree laws promulgated in its absence unless it is an opposition parliament! However, if it is in harmony with the ruler and his government, as is the case right now since they all belong to the same party, it rarely thinks of rejecting these decree laws. Indeed, we find it adhering to them and defending them against their opponents despite the constitutional violations which they entail. Hence the idea of resorting to the judicial power to protect the constitutional legality and to set matters right, regardless of the position of the parliaments themselves which are swayed, more than others, by political and partisan considerations. Such a political position has not dissuaded the Egyptian Council of State judiciary, since its creation in 1946, from extending its control over such decree laws (or ordinances) when they came before it to confirm their constitutionality and government adherence to the provisions and restrictions prescribed by the constitution regarding the exercise

of the extraordinary legislative power! The rulings of the Administrative Court of the Council of State was rife with such an intent prior to the creation of the Supreme Constitutional Court, which has become the sole competent authority with the power to oversee the constitutionality of the laws and bylaws, including the decree laws, in accordance with its first law, No 81 of 1969, then to current law No 48 of 1979.

The Supreme Constitutional Court's ruling of the unconstitutionality of decree law No 44 of 1979 amending some of the personal statute provisions confirmed all these intents. The court based its acceptance of the challenge of the constitutionality of the said decree on two bases: first, the absence of the need that allows the president of the republic to promulgate decree laws in the absence of the People's Assembly, saying that it became clear to it, from the explanatory note of the contested decree law and the declarations of the minister of state for people's assembly affairs concerning the urgent necessity that prompted its promulgation to amend the personal statutes in force that "the legislation amending these laws was issued a long time ago while the Egyptian family has been awaiting this reform since 1905," and that "this reason, added to the desire to amend laws that have been in force for a long time despite social changes, does not constitute a necessity which accords the president the power to legislate in the absence of the People's Assembly on the strength of Art 147 of the constitution. Therefore, the promulgation of the contested decree law on the strength of that particular article contrary to the conditions established in it constitute a violation of the constitution."

The second basis alludes to the fact that the new People's Assembly's ratification, following the May and June 1979 elections, of the contested decree law promulgated in its absence "allows the continuation of its enforcement in its original form as a decree law without purging it of its constitutional flaws that accompanied its promulgation"! This was exactly the opinion of the Council of State's administrative courts in the past in similar situations!

This means that the People's Assembly approval of such decrees promulgated by the executive power in its absence on the basis of Art 147 of the constitution is a political measure that does not cleanse it of its constitutional flaws, if any, and does not plead on behalf of the decree laws should they be challenged before the Supreme Constitutional Court because it does not consider it from the angle of political appropriateness, but rather from a completely different angle, which is its conformity or nonconformity with the constitutional provisions contained in Art 147 prohibiting the executive power from sapping the most important jurisdiction of the legislative power, namely legislation or law enactment!

A propos, the late President Anwar al-Sadat's regime was marked by several offenses against the legislative power, either on the strength of Art 74 of the constitution, which was abused following the 18 and 19 January 1977 events in issuing decree law No 2 for 1977 inflicting harsh punishment on labor strikes, sitins and demonstrations, or on the basis of Art 108 promulgating decree laws by the excessively generous mandate of the People's Assembly in various fields, or on the strength of Art 147 itself. A case in point is decree law No 169 of 1981 amending some of the provisions of criminal procedures published in the

Official Gazette on 4 February 1981, a few days before the People's Assembly reconvened in its ordinary session. So, where is the urgent necessity to issue such a presidential decree that infringes upon the guarantees of defense in criminal cases (see the study of Mr Mahmud Mahmud Mustafa in AL-QANUN WA AL-IQTISAD magazine in 1983 under the heading of "Human Rights and Criminal Procedures in 100 Years")? The author speculates that this decree law can be abrogated if its constitutionality is challenged on the basis of urgency!

I have no doubt that many people, particularly members of the legal profession, welcomed the Supreme Constitutional Court's ruling on the unconstitutionality of decree law No 44 of 1979 amending some personal status provisions. It is hoped that the executive power has heeded this new lesson and will stop issuing decree laws in the absence of the People's Assembly in violation of the constitutional provisions regulating such extraordinary legislation, particularly those pertaining to people's rights and positions and the family system in particular, so that the Egyptian family will not be subjected to such perilous tremors. Our exhausted society has suffered enough under economic instability brought about by bad, rash or ill-considered laws and decrees! Let us not add to that family instability as well!

12502

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EGYPT

DEMISE OF PERSONAL STATUTE LAW VICTORY FOR OPPOSITION

Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 May 85 p 10

[Article by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qaddus: "After 5 Years and 10 Months of Strong Resistance, The Personal Statute Law Is in the Throes of Death"]

[Text] As of last Sunday, the personal statute law courts stopped, from the practical point of view, hearing cases brought before them. The reason for that is the Supreme Constitutional Court decision handed down last Saturday concerning the unconstitutionality of the personal statute law. At long last, this law has been repealed after a long controversy. It died suddenly, as if struck by a heart attack or a fatal blow. Its official burial is expected to occur any moment now when the Supreme Constitutional Court decision is published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE. The court's law stipulates that its decisions must be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE within 15 days from the day they are handed down.

Following the funeral and burial of the "late" personal statute law, the decision will be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE and our country will return to the laws that preceded this one: Laws No 25 of 1920 and No 25 of 1929.

The personal statute law, which has been ruled unconstitutional, was short-lived. It lasted exactly 5 years, 10 months and 13 days, from the time it was put into force the day following its publication in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE on 12 June 1979 to the day following the Supreme Constitutional Court decision to repeal it on 5 May 1985.

I went to the Ministry of Justice to explore the horizons of the future. I met there with a number of senior officials who declined to mention their names due to the sensitivity of the subject. So far, the picture is still unclear. The Ministry of Justice will study the opinion first, a process which is expected to take at least a month. The personal statute laws, which were in effect shortly before amendments were introduced to them by decree-law No 44 of 1979, have been revived and are expected to be in effect for a long time, 6 months at least, until the government drafts a new personal statute law to be debated and approved by the People's Assembly.

Expectations for the personal statute law are confined to the following:

- A new personal statute bill to be drafted by the government, excluding the articles that caused the controversy and conflict over the last law.
- A new bill drafted by the government containing the same articles stipulated in Law No 44 of 1979, especially since the Supreme Constitutional Court, in its decision, did not go into the law itself, but dealt basically with the way it was issued.
- A comprehensive personal statute bill drafted by the government to be followed by the repeal of all previous laws, namely Law No 25 of 1920, pertaining to the personal statute law, and Law No 25 of 1929, pertaining to the practical executive measures for enforcing the personal statute articles.
- The government's deliberate failure to issue any new personal statute bill, thus retaining laws promulgated in the twenties.

Justice ministry officials confirm that if the government decides to issue a new personal statute bill, it will do so in a deliberate manner through a committee representing all tendencies and will not come out with "parboiled" bills to satisfy certain whims.

Fate of Personal Statute Cases

The question that poses itself concerns the fate of the cases filed with the personal statute law courts. The answer is divided into two parts. The first part includes all the cases that have not yet been resolved and will undoubtedly be subject to the personal statute laws that were in effect shortly before their amendment through decree No 44 for 1979. The second part of the answer consists of those cases in which final decisions have been handed down. Justice ministry experts and the personal statute lawyers confirm that these provisions may not be revoked after being established and implemented with very visible effects.

Another point of view has been put forth by Dr Muhammad 'Usfur and Justice 'Abd-al-Hamid Ghurab. Dr 'Usfur, a senior expert in administrative and constitutional law, said: "There is always a dangerous flaw in the late review of the constitutionality of the laws because hundreds of cases and legal positions are created by laws ruled unconstitutional several years after their promulgation. It is undoubtedly a delicate problem. I favor the jurisprudence opinion that the decision of the supreme court is a 'telling' decision that nullifies the law as of its promulgation and therefore the injured party may request a reconsideration of the decision issued against him in accordance with this law."

Justice Mahmud Ghurab said that for a judgment to become final, it must be definitive or, in other words, the Court of Cassation must have ruled on it. "This was not the case because the matter was not presented in a litigation filed by an injured party. Therefore, I believe that the injured party has the right to bring a case against the enforcement of these provisions in the form of a petition for reconsideration filed with the competent court."

Dr Muhammad 'Usfur said that we ought to learn a lesson from what happened. What is needed here is for the legislator to intervene through a law to expedite the challenge to the constitutionality of the laws to prevent the creation of positions and cases that are difficult to eliminate after the fact. In this regard, he proposes giving the Supreme Constitutional Court the power to suspend the challenged laws, if there is sufficient cause, until it decides the case.

Victory for Opposition

I found that all parties were pleased with the Supreme Constitutional Court decision. Justice Mumtaz Nassar, opposition leader in the People's Assembly, said that this decision is a victory for the opposition and a defeat for the ruling National Party. He explained this viewpoint by saying: "I adopted the opinion reached by the Supreme Constitutional Court when the repealed law was being debated during its consideration by the People's Assembly in 1979. I said that the legislative power is exercised primarily by the People's Assembly and the president of the republic has no right to employ it for issuing decree-laws except in emergency cases. The constitution stipulates in Article 147 that the president of the republic, in the absence of the People's Assembly, may issue decree-laws in circumstances that require prompt action by measures that cannot endure delay." Justice Mumtaz Nassar said that this did not apply at all to the decree-law pertaining to the personal statute law. The last president Anwar al-Sadat issued this law 2 days prior to the People's Assembly meeting. There was nothing to warrant its quick promulgation. The National Party approved it to please its leader. Mumtaz Nassar reaffirmed, following the Constitutional Court's decision, that in the end only truth would prevail and the people would discover the sincerity of the opposition in word and deed.

Dr Muhammad 'Usfur added that the repealed personal statute law was issued under dubious circumstances and not so innocuous motives. Its aim was not to please God and the interest of the country. A constitutionally irresponsible personality was behind it and the people named the law after him. Dr 'Usfur reminded us that the repealed law was promulgated amid a deluge of disreputable laws. Undoubtedly, the decision by the Supreme Constitutional Court is a victory for democracy for it lays a basic foundation that stresses the principle of upholding the separation of powers and puts the emergency power of the head of state in its proper place.

Government Approves

The decision handed down by the Constitutional Court invalidated all the provisions which have long been a subject of controversy in the repealed law. This pleases the ulemas of Islam. The surprise is that the Ministry of Awqaf himself was the first to support the Supreme Court's decision, which proves that the government approves the repeal of this law. Awqaf Minister Dr al-Ahmadi Abu-al-Nur said: "The constitutional Court's decision rectified a situation the nation has been striving to correct."

Religiously Lawful, Legally Unlawful

Among the most important provisions that have been repealed is appended Article 5A, which the ulemas of Islam strongly opposed. The article said: "With regard to the wife, divorce becomes effective as of the date she is notified of it. The wife is considered notified of the divorce by witnessing the presentation of documentary evidence, etc."

Dr al-Ahmad Abu-al-Nur explained the reasons most of the Muslim ulema oppose this provision, saying: "That was in the interest of the woman herself. The said provision prescribed the way she is to be notified of the divorce contrary to the opinions of the ulema. It forbade what God permitted and permitted what God forbade!"

He explained his viewpoint by saying: "Suppose that he divorced her privately and pronounced it clearly to her without documentation, thus avoiding the legal waiting period. She is considered by religious law as alienated from him and by secular law as still his wife. This leads to the following destructive consequences:

"If she wanted to remarry, the new marriage would be considered lawful under the religious law and unlawful under secular law.

"Should the husband die, she would be permitted to inherit from him under religious law but forbidden to under secular laws.

"The husband can thus leave his wife 'hanging,' for he cannot touch her and she cannot touch him and she is neither a wife in the eyes of religious law nor divorced in the eyes of secular law."

Strange Provisions

Another provision which caused much controversy and was rejected by most the ulemas of Islam was Article 6A, appended to Article 29 of 1929, which says: "The wife is considered the injured party if her husband marries another women without her consent, even if she did not stipulate in the marriage contract the he not be allowed to marry another woman."

Dr al-Ahmadi said that this provision is unacceptable because it restricts a right allowed by Islam. It considered a second marriage harmful to the wife if undertaken without her consent, regardless of the reasons. The Minister of Awqaf confirmed that polygamy is a legal right limited only by justice and the ability to achieve the purpose for which the first marriage was legislated. Legal rights are not concurrent with harm. Our religion does not permit anything which leads to harm.

Justice Mahmud Ghurab supported this viewpoint by saying: "Islam has a basic rule that affirms that there be no harm or injury. The repealed provision posed a threat to this rule insofar as the marriage of the husband to another woman without the first wife's consent, according to the law, constitutes an injury. All injuries are unlawful. Therefore, the husband's marriage to

another woman without the first wife's consent is unlawful! This conclusion conflicts with the Koran, the Sunna and the nation's consensus. The Prophet could not have been involved in a forbidden act. God forbid that he could do something like that."

One more provision which caused a controversy as well was Article 4 of the repealed law, pertaining to the divorcee's right after the divorce to stay with her younger child at the rented marital home. Justice Mahmud Ghurab said that this provision has been abused, thus allowing some wives to mistreat their husbands so long as they kept the apartment! Stranger still is the fact that the repealed law allowed the divorcer to live with his divorced wife if he could not find a place to live. Undoubtedly, this stipulation prompted a large number of young men to shun marriage.

One provision which has been forced into our religion and which, according to the Minister of Awqaf, has caused the man to lose control over his home, is the stipulation in Article 2 that should the wife leave the marital home without the husband's permission, this does not constitute a cause for denying her alimony (!) in cases where this is allowed by the law or by tradition or is dictated by necessity, etc. This provision is very elastic and has threatened the Egyptian family with disintegration and ruin.

The battle that raged over the personal statute law is not over yet. On the contrary, it is sure to flare up again more ferociously, for everyone is trying to impose his view concerning the new law. Wait for the coming days, for they promise to be decisive and very eventful.

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EGYPT

ISLAM'S POSITION ON OPPOSITION DESCRIBED

Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 23 May 85 p 7

/Article by Dr Muhammad Kamil al-Faqqi, chairman of the religious affairs committee of the Wafd Party: "Portraits of Opposition in Islam"/

/Text/ Islam calls for the freedom of speech and bases the affairs of Muslims on Shura /i.e., consultation/. It guarantees the existence of other opinions that can only be superseded by other sound and level-headed opinions. All those who govern the Islamic nation in every place bear the responsibility of opening their hearts and minds to other points of view so long as truth is their intent. Wisdom is not restricted to anyone and those who listen to the opinions of the people solicit wisdom from every mouth and add to their course of action and that of their officials' solutions to problems and guidance to errors which they may not find somewhere else. Perhaps the allies of the sultan accepted good and bad to protect their gains and /out of fear that/ all people would perish. So many nations and interests have perished. The dearest officials to God are those who say no when necessary for this is loyalty. The most honorable of those put in charge are those who extend their hands to their nation to build its glory with every hand. Infallibility is for the prophets alone and reverting to the truth is better than persisting in evil. The Prophet, who does not speak on a whim, had many things in his life which warranted opposition and allowed contradiction so long as the good of the Muslims was the issue. Witness the great Badr invasion which brought victory and reknown to the believers and became the song of the believers and fighters, undertaken by the Prophet and his Companions. When /Muhammad/ came to the water closes to Badr, he stopped there. Al-Habbab Ibn al-Munzirin Ibn al-Jamuh told him: "O Prophet of God, is this the site God chose for you and we should not deviate from it, or is this subjective opinion, war or cunning," and he said: "Prophet of God, if this is not the site, so lead the people to water closest to the people and we will dig the well and set up a basin to fill with water. Then we will fight the people. We will drink and they will not be able to drink."

The Prophet said: "Yours is the right advice." He then got up with his Companions and walked until he came to the water closest to the people. He stopped there and ordered the well to be dug. He built a basin on the well which was filled with water. So you see that the Lord of Creation and the most honorable of the prophets did not exclude other opinions, but took counsel from his Companions and opted for one opinion in which he saw good, levelheadedness and victory for the Muslims.

Our master 'Umar, who was known for composure and farsightedness and whose opinions and actions are supported by the Koran, was always intent on hearing opposing views and soliciting different opinions in substantiation of counsel and in support of free rational thought. A Muslim woman did not see things the way he did, so she opposed his opinion without fear of censure. 'Umar yielded to her opinion and abandoned his viewpoint courageously and honorably. He even said: "A man was wrong and the woman was right." He also said: "God have mercy on he who pointed out my faults." He admits to having faults and calls for mercy for those who point them out to him, for this is the road to perfection, the path to piety and the goal of a strong leader who is united with God. And he who unites with God will be successful. Honorable opposition is Jihad and support of it is a duty.

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EGYPT

THEOLOGIAN DISCUSSES ISLAMIC LAW ISSUES

Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 23 May 85 p 7

/Interview with Khalid Muhammad Khalid by Ansharah Diyab: "Fear of the Shari'ah Is the Product of Delusion and Ignorance. The Door of Interpretation Is Still Open"/

/Text/ Every nation must have a code to govern it and laws to regulate its life. These codes and laws all over the world are the product of the human mind and of the experiences of countries and nations throughout history. But the Islamic nation has been blessed by a code from God the Omniscient. The application of the Islamic Shari'ah has occupied a large part of thinkers' attention, the debates of the legislative councils and the pages of the press, and has triggered conflicting viewpoints and numerous proposals. Even those who agree on the application disagree on the method of implementation.

The cause of the malady is the regime's preoccupation, during 30 years, with self-protection and endeavors to dominate the Arab world. The remedy is to stress political democracy and allow economic freedom and individual initiative.

I have said much about it and still say that it is a topic that provokes considerable hubbub and very little understanding. If all the parties, who are concerned with the immediate application of the Shari'ah and who are accused of slow application, had reviewed the facts of the case and sought to understand them properly, we would not have witnessed any disagreement between the two groups. And, there would not have been a conflict even with regard to those who reject the application of the Shari'ah.

Every nation has to have a law by which it can be governed. God has blessed the Islamic nation with a prophet who did not speak out of whim and a book that does not stray or forget. This great prophet personally supervised, with God's help, the laying of the Islamic nation's firm and strong foundations, starting with the explanation and implementation of the Shari'ah by which God chose to govern and regulate the life of this nation.

The Islamic thinker /i.e., Khalid Muhammad Khalid/ proceeded to talk about the Shari'ah and said:

This nation's abandonment of God's law and its adoption of other laws constitutes an improper, unenlightened and incorrect action.

What do we mean by the Islamic Shari'ah and what are the limits of its application?

The Islamic Shari'ah is:

The Koran, the Sunna, consensus, and independent judgment.

/Question/ We hear from some ulema that the door of independent judgment has been closed?

/Answer/ This is not true at all. It is, in my view, an unacceptable opinion. I base my judgment on the Prophetic tradition which says: "In this religion, every generation has its own honorable persons." Here, the Prophet judges that each successive Muslim generation has such honorable men whose primary task is independent judgment /ijtihad/.

/Question/ Does independent judgment not have rules and should those who engage in it not have special qualifications?

/Answer/ Yes, independent judgment does have rules and those who engage in it, as you said, must have special qualifications and abilities. I say, however, that all these rules and qualifications are more available today than in bygone eras. The imam or the legist /mujtahid/, in order to devise a judgment or discover the truth, used to have to acquaint himself with the opinion of the orthodox Muslims, an impossible task unless he met a narrator or a reciter of the Prophetic tradition. He also had to be well-versed in the true foundations of Islamic jurisprudence such as the abrogative and the abrogated verses, the summary and the details and those issues that were settled by consensus. All this was not available to the legists of ancient times while it is totally available nowadays to anyone who has studied Islamic jurisprudence. I say that independent judgment still exists and will exist until God inherits the earth and its inhabitants. Moreover, its means are available in a way unprecedented in history.

/Question/ Does the application of the Islamic Shari'ah stop at a certain limit due to the circumstances of contemporary societies?

/Answer/ These limits are set by the Koran, the Sunna and independent judgment, and by the great jurisprudence legacy as well, which cover all existing and future situations and problems. This is from the objective point of view.

As to the form of application, it is linked to independent judgment and the jurisprudence legacy in a way that leads it away from broad and unrestrained action and relies on deliberations, wisdom and appropriate condification and planning.

/Question/ If you wanted to translate the phrase "deliberateness, wisdom and appropriate codification and planning" into a practical reality, can you give up a picture of this reality?

/Answer/ Before I give you a picture of this reality, I would like to say that, regrettably, we are facing a sad phenomenon in that the people who are most vocal in demanding the application of the Shari'ah are the ones most ignorant of the Shari'ah. This does not mean that all who advocate its application fit into this category. Undoubtedly there is a group of sensible people who have a good understanding of the Shari'ah and comprehend its intent, although they are a small minority among an unenlightened and uninformed majority. Likewise, the most vocal people in rejecting the codification of the Shari'ah are also the most ignorant of it.

(The Islamic thinker elaborated on his opinion by saying:)

Herein lies the answer to your very important question of how codification may be achieved. Codification must precede application, but I can confidently say that the codification of the Islamic Shari'ah is not as difficult as some biased people like to portray it. Indeed, I can almost say that we can codify it while drinking a cold glass of lemonade.

You and the readers may be surprised by this statement and this exaggeration, but this is the honest truth. The laws of any nation are represented in the penal, civil and commercial code and related laws.

The penal code in Islam regulates two kinds of punishment:

The first kind is legal punishment and the second kind, "corroboration." Legal punishment is known and does not need more than a few lines. As for "corroboration," it is the product of independent judgment by jurisprudence experts. Therefore, all or most of the things regulated by the existing penal code are derived from the Shari'ah for it is the "corroboration" that gives the government and the deputies in parliament the right to codify it.

Therefore, the penal code will not require us to add to legal punishment which is legislated by God.

/Interjection/ Many people are afraid of legal punishment and therefore oppose the application of the Islamic Shari'ah.

/Answer/ Those, in my opinion, are the victims of delusion and misunderstanding. Legal punishment in the Islamic Shari'ah is set within a magnificent framework of compassion and tolerance. Take, for example, the legal punishment for adultery. The Islamic Shari'ah prescribed conditions that provide for a stay of execution. I once said about this point: "As for the legal punishment for adultery, it carries restraints that prevent its enforcement."

The legal punishment for adultery can only be enforced by confession and the testimony of four witnesses who actually witnessed the sexual encounter between the adulterers. No one will willingly confess to adultery to subject oneself to flogging and stoning. One prefers to turn to God in privacy in repentance.

/Question/ If you were responsible for this application, what steps would you take to carry it out?

/Answer/ I would immediately form committees to codify the Shari'ah or, in other words, to inject the existing laws with provisions from the Shari'ah: a committee for the codification of the penal code, one for the civil code and another for the commercial code. Before all this, I would form a committee to codify the system of rule in Islam.

/Question/ What do you mean by codification of the system of rule in Islam?

/Answer/ I mean, of course, the setting up of a good democratic system of rule which is an absolute necessity to ensure that the Shari'ah is justly enforced without deviation, transgression or aggression.

/Question/ Is democracy as we know it today equal to the Shura /counsel/ in Islam?

/Answer/ Yes, the Shura in Islam is equal to democracy as we know it today. Islam called for the Shura on which it based the caliphate and rule through applications that were appropriate for the time, without placing any restrictions on the future or depriving other eras and generations of their right to choose those applications that are best suited for their times under the banner of the Shura, which is equal to political democracy as we see it nowadays.

/Question/ What are the elements of the Shura in Islam?

/Answer/ The elements of the Shura in Islam can be narrowed down to the following:

First, the nation in the Islamic society is the source of authority.

Second, the people retain the absolute right to choose their imams and rulers through free elections. In other words, the opportunity for choice must be made available whereby the people can have more than one candidate from whom to choose their rulers.

Third, the people's right to choose their deputies and representatives in a free parliament.

Fourth, the people's right to have a legal and constitutional opposition in parliament.

Fifth, the people's right to be supported by many parties so long as the nature of things necessitates the existence of many variations of methods and directions aimed at realizing the nation's interests and safeguarding its values and principles, and so long as these parties, as experience tells us, provide a live medium for serving the people and asserting their rights and identity, either through government or through opposition.

Sixth, the nation's right to have a free and courageous press to reflect their many viewpoints as well as the obstacles that stand in the way of their development.

This is the Shura in Islam and this is the way it can be soundly applied in our times. Such an application draws its legitimacy and, indeed, necessity from the spirit and provisions of Islam.

/Question/ You have drawn a bright picture of the system of rule in Islam. How well will this bright picture be received and can it be realized?

/Answer/ The codification of the system of rule in this fashion, which represents Islam and the Shari'ah, is an inevitable starting point in any attempt to codify the Islamic Shari'ah. I am well aware that the system of rule I have just portrayed is rejected by many of those who, day and night, call for the application of the Shari'ah.

/Question/ What do you think about the way in which the matter of applying the Shari'ah was handled not too long ago?

/Answer/ The way in which this issue was presented a few days ago lacked intelligence, or should I say sincerity. The worst kind of remedy for any issue or problem is to put out the fire with flame throwers! This is represented in defying or ignoring the issue or in being lax and indecisive.

Most of what we can offer Islam and the whole Islamic nation lies in our agreement on a system of rule in Islam based on the true Shura and proper democracy to which the Islamic current, with all its methods, directions and groups, would be committed so that, should it one day take over rule, it would not encounter a political vacuum which it would want to fill with its own viewpoint which, we know, does not recognize the Shura or democracy, as we have illustrated above. Rather, it would find an elaborate system of rule carrying the character, the spirit and the intentions of Islam to which it was already committed. This, in my opinion, is the greatest service we can offer the Shari'ah and the country. Hence, it must be rendered promptly. As for the other aspects of application and codification, they do not require much effort or much time.

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EGYPT

AL-AZHAR RECTOR CALLS ON SHI'ITES TO SPARE PALESTINIANS

PM051351 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 3 Jun 85 p 5

[Al-Azhar Rector Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im Ahmad al-Minr "Open Letter to the Shi'a Imam and Shi'a Minister in Lebanon"]

[Excerpts] To my friend and colleague Shaykh Shams al-Din, imam of the Shi'ites in Lebanon, and his Excellency Minister Nabih Birri, commander and leader of the Amal military movement in Lebanon:

Are you unaware of the dire consequences of the terrible massacre the Shi'ite militia is perpetrating against the Sunnis in West Beirut, particularly the Palestinians? Can the planners and perpetrators of the massacre control its outcome, or will matters get out of hand and backfire on them?

I have little hope that my letter will influence you or the course of events, but it is my duty to you and to all Muslims of all creeds to raise my voice to draw attention to the danger that the Shi'ite militia and their leaders are creating throughout the Islamic world--a danger that will affect the long-term future.

We and the world can see no justifiable reasons for this vicious attack on the Palestinians, your recent comrades in arms and allies against Israel and the Phalangists. How can the Shi'ite Muslims now collaborate with the Phalangists against them, and deny them medicine and treatment and even burial?

World analysts, including Muslim analysts, attribute this action to narrow sectarian reasons which Shi'ite hatred of the Sunnis since the dawn of history (?confirms). Although I preclude and reject this, I have indications that confirm it and prove its reality. This is evident in the events that we witness daily, their reasons and their effects, as well as in the conspiracies being hatched against us by some of our people in our own country for personal, sectarian, and colonialist objectives. I have seen people sacrificing their religion and honor for the sake of their selfish ends.

The desire to dominate and to dictate orders could lead many to their destruction. However, I am still hoping that the Shi'ites will shun secretarian hatred, and I would like to believe that they are not being influenced by it in the shameful actions they are perpetrating--actions that neither God nor man can forgive.

Despite clinging to this hope, I still see that the Muslim Shi'ite militia together with the Shi'ite section of the official Lebanese Army and the Phalangist militia are working in unison to dominate Sunni West Beirut and to perpetrate against the Palestinians remaining in the camps this massacre that has exceeded in its savagery the massacres that the Phalangists, Israel, and the Syrians committed in the Tal al-Za'tar camp.

The Palestinians supported the Sunnis against the Phalangists, who were attacking them. What harm can that do the Shi'ites?

Sunni Muslims in Beirut have no support; they have no military movement to defend and seek revenge for them as the Shi'ites have. Is this why the love of domination and hatred of the Sunnis have come to the surface?

In addition to what the militia under your command is doing, its secret "Jihad organization" branch is involved in making death threats and assassination attempts. The recent assassination attempt against the Amir of Kuwait is one example. What is it they want?

Why do you play with the lethal fires of Bigotry in this arena? Is this the hope of Islamic unity that we need?

If with the support of the Phalangists and Syria, you are now able to deal painful blows to the Sunnis and particularly the Palestinians--blows that are painful to all their brothers in the Arab and Islamic arena, do you believe that the march of history will stop at the results you are seeking to achieve, or will it go on marching until it brings about results to the contrary? There are ups and downs.

Will you accept the judgment of history for starting the flames of this sedition or for allowing it to be kindles, so as to rekindle in people's spirits what we thought history and the centuries had done away with, and after we believed that we had one common future? In the face of our enemies we must work the bottom line.

Do we not have enough with the Iraq-Iran war, the intransigence of the Iranian Shi'ite regime, and its refusal to stop the war and resort to arbitration as the Koran requires, that you sponsor and support this sedition in the midst of the Arab world?

If the actions of this Shi'ite movement are in accord with those of extremist Nusayri 'Alawite Shi'ah that is ruling Syria and of the Phalangists, have you obtained a pledge from God that the Sunni majority in the world will not be provoked into defending its destiny, creed, and brothers against such malicious actions?

Therefore, in the name of God that we worship, of His messenger in whose message we believe, of the Islamic unity which God and His messenger call on us to seek, and of our interests and inevitable common destiny, I call on you to halt this massacre, to stop this sedition, and to protect the nation against its destructive effects.

"Ye who believe! Enter into Islam wholeheartedly; and follow not the footsteps of the evil one; for he is to you an avowed enemy. If ye backslide after the clear signs have come to you, then know that God is exalted in power, wise."
[Koranic verse]

EGYPT

SYRIAN DAILY RAPS EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT MUBARAK

PM041805 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 26 Jun 85 p 2

/Muhammad Zaruf article: "Mubarak and the Democracy of Threatening the Egyptian People"/

/Text/ Never in the history of mankind has a president stood up to threaten and declare war on his own people as the president of the Egyptian regime did yesterday when he devoted his speech, lasting more than 1 hour, to threatening the Arab people of Egypt. He threatened that he would use maximum violence and cruelty if the people rejected his capitulationist plans and programs. Not only that, he also claimed that there is democracy in Egypt and boasted that he is proud of it and wants to consolidate it.

What democracy is the president of the Egyptian regime talking about as he threatens the Arab people of Egypt using the most abusive, arrogant, capitulationist and defeatist words in his vocabulary?

There can be no doubt that Mubarak was talking about democracy with sharp teeth, just like his dead predecessor Al-Sadat before him. Al-Sadat always spoke about the democracy and freedom established by his regime, but at the same time he carried out the ugliest forms of terrorism and dictatorship against the Egyptian people. Mubarak seems to have inherited the same language used continuously by his predecessor as a cover for serious concessions which reached the point of forfeiting all the Arab nation's rights. One consolidation here is that the president of the Egyptian regime has openly and frankly admitted his complete failure to solve the country's difficult economic problems. He said the following, verbatim: "We have no water, no electricity, no housing, no roads, no trains and no telephones." That confession gives us an idea about the dark corners of the picture.

Mubarak said that he regretted the Egyptian people's wars against Israel and he blamed the current terrible problems of his regime on these wars. So how different is Mubarak from Al-Sadat in this lowly and alarming political line? The answer should not be in doubt because, in the final analysis, the president of the Egyptian regime is himself expressing his own fatal crisis. By threatening the Arab people of Egypt he unwittingly acknowledges the escalating national struggle in Egypt and confirms the fact that there is more than one popular uprising in Egypt.

Where is the progress and prosperity which the Egyptian regime's president also claims exists in Egypt if he himself has admitted that there is no water, electricity, roads or telephones? That is the logic of the rulers who imagine that their people could possibly keep quiet about their treasonous and capitulationist practices or submit to their threats and blackmail.

Mubarak knows better than anyone else that the Egyptian people would never forgive the daily crimes he commits against them, crimes reaching the point of declaring that there is nothing in Egypt. The Egyptian masses who judged his predecessor Al-Sadat and who carried out the sentence passed against him by history and the people will do the same thing to Mubarak who, events have proved, is more dangerous to Egypt and its people than Al-Sadat was.

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25 July 1985

EGYPT

ISLAMIC TRENDS DISCUSSED

PM161435 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 15-21 May 85 pp 8-10

['Abd al-Latif al-Minawi and Wahid 'Abd al-Majid report: "Three Conflicting Trends, and Mubarak Has Not Yet Defined His Stand"]

[Excerpts] Cairo--Important developments have recently taken place regarding the question of applying the Islamic Shari'ah--a question that has been debated in Egypt for many years. Most observers expected this question to be the hottest issue to face the new Egyptian Parliament, elected in May 1984, in view of the success of eight Muslim Brotherhood members on the new Al-Wafd Party list.

In fact, the observers' prediction has proved right. Debate and discussion of this question among all the political and religious trends in Egypt has hotted up; the question has become one of the most important issues preoccupying public opinion.

Despite the many trends in the Egyptian public opinion and of the multiplicity of views that do not always find expression through political parties and organizations, it is possible to identify three trends with regard to the Shari'ah question.

The first trend calls for the literal and immediate application of Islamic Shari'ah without delay or preparations.

The second trend absolutely rejects the idea of implementing the Islamic Shari'ah and calls for total separation between religion and politics. This is the trend called secularism.

The third trend, which represents the majority of parties, believes that matters should not be rushed.

Dialogue between the various parties has hotted up, with each accusing the other either of backwardness, atheism, or, as some put it, inability to take a step expressing a popular demand.

Egypt today is being pulled by three currents. The future will certainly lie with one of these currents, in which case the shape of Egypt's future will be decided. The question to be decided is whether Egypt will become secular, middle-of-the-road, or extremely religious.

Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il stood up in the parliament and said: "Brothers, I would like you to sign with me a new request demanding the application of the Islmaic Shari'ah."

Shayky Abu Isma'il is the former Muslim brotherhood representative in the Al-Wafd Party and the most active brotherhood parliamentarian in demanding the application of the Shari'ah, as a result of which he clashed with the Al-Wafd Party leadership which failed or did not wish to keep up with his rapid and continuing move toward the application of the Shari'ah.

While Shaykh Abu Isma'il was continuing his efforts to collect signatures from People's Assembly members, the assembly's Committee on Religious Affairs headed by Dr Muhammad Mahmud (NDP) was moving in a different direction.

The committee prepared a report about the situation of the current laws in Egypt and concluded by recommending the purging of these laws of anything contravening the Islamic Shari'ah. "The call to adopt the Islamic Shari'ah principles does not mean abolishing all the existing subjective laws, as long as they do not contravene the Islamic Shari'ah. Rather it means purging those laws of whatever may contravene the Islamic Shari'ah codes."

Continuing to reflect the middle-of-the-road views, the report says: It is essential to prepare the general atmosphere of Egyptian society, and should be done while purging existing legislation of whatever may contravene the Shari'ah code; society should also gradually move toward self-sufficiency and justice.

Obviously the report adopts the theory of gradual application of the Islamic Shari'ah laws, in opposition to Shayky Abu Isma'il and the Muslim brotherhood who call for the immediate application of the Shari'ah on the grounds that gradualism would have been acceptable at the beginning of the Islamic call. But now that the call has been completed there is no room for accepting such logic.

The voice of the third trend is not heard in parliament but it is heard loudly through party papers, particularly AL-AHALI, organ of the NPUG Party. The party's stand was much boosted by the method which former Sudanese President Numayri adopted and the Sudanese popular reaction to that method of application.

Thus the lines defining the three trends have been drawn up, although the second trend won the battle partially--that is until further attempts by the Khomeyni trend or the fundamentalist Islamic trend, who might see the application of Shari'ah through resort to violence and force of arms, as happened in the case of the reunification and repudiation [al-Takfir wa al Hijrah] group.

Who is afraid of the application of the Shari'ah?

This is the question that is being put to those who try to argue with the enthusiastic proponents of applying the Shari'ah. Shaykh al-Sha'rawi [a notable Islamic scholar], discussing the issue with AL-MAJALLAH said angrily: "Why do you wring your hands every time we mention the application of the Shari'ah. What are you afraid of?"

The Muslim Brotherhood also believes that the government and parliament are procrastinating over the application of the Shari'ah despite the special studies the previous parliament carried out on the subject.

The NDP's answer to the stands adopted by Shayky Salah Abu Isma'il and other trends is found in the parliamentary Religious Affairs Committee report. The committee urges everybody to deal with the matter with prudence, calm, and patience and without provocations and oneupmanship.

Dr Sa'd al-Din Ibrahim, a professor of social and political science, believes that the majority of the Egyptian political forces adopt a middle-of-the-road stand; they do not publicly reject the application of the Islamic Shari'ah, but at the same time they do not favor its immediate application.

Foremost among these forces is the ruling NDP Party, which has led the campaign against the Muslim Brotherhood trend inside parliament in the debate over the application.

Another opposition party, the Socialist Labor Party, supports the NDP stand. Its deputy in parliament al-Damirdash Zaki says: "The question now is not one of applying the Islamic Shari'ah but of organizing the priorities in putting it into effect. A [?sound] application of the Shari'ah calls for opening the door to the interpretation of many issues over which Islamic jurisprudence has stood still and which have become jurisprudence axioms, whereas in fact they are hindrances which are contrary to the spirit of the Islamic Shari'ah. One of these jurisprudence axioms concerns the question of the authority of the ruler in Islam; is the principle of consultation compulsory for the ruler or not; who are the people with authority? Is the Islamic economy similar to the capitalist or the socialist economy? Many issues must first be solved through free interpretation, so that we do not apply the Shari'ah with vague and un-specific concepts."

It remains to define the position of the secularists on the political map. They are a considerable force despite the difficulty of pinpointing their positions. Yet we can consider the leftist NPUG as representing this trend. There is also a wing in the Al-Wafd Party that considers itself secularist, as does a wing in the NDP. Therefore, a definite political classification of these trends generally does not work out in view of the existence of these trends in most political parties--with the exception, of course, of the religious trend.

Yet a new party has emerged in the last few months, namely Al-Mustaqbal Party. It is still being organized under its chairman Faraj Fudah, who split with Al-Wafd Party after it announced that it had abandoned secularism. This party frankly declares that it is a secularist party which brings together those who believe in separating religion from politics....

President Husni Mubarak has not yet made his views known on this matter through any of his statements or speeches. But certainly he adopts a middle-of-the-road stand that rejects the implementation of the Shari'ah on the basis of applying Islamic legal punishment. He believes that the mere application of Shari'ah laws does not prevent corruption; rather it is the sound upbringing of youth that is the basis for the religious behavior of individuals.

The Egyptian President's stand is evident through his party's action. Through the parliamentary Religious Affairs Committee the party stressed the importance of preparing society prior to applying the Shari'ah.

It is notable that President Mubarak has absolutely never mentioned this subject in his speeches or public statements.

We also note from our attempt to observe the forces that support or oppose the application of the Shari'ah that the majority of the Egyptian intelligentsia is against the application of the Shari'ah, with the concept of applying the Islamic legal punishment. In fact, a large number of them reject the idea of applying the Shari'ah altogether. Only a few among the intelligentsia, who belong to the traditional or the fundamentalist trend, support its application.

The government's move inside parliament regarding the application of the Shari'ah can only be described as clever. By this move to counter the demand by the Muslim Brotherhood for the application of the Shari'ah the government achieves two gains;

First, it avoids any accusations that it does not wish to apply the Shari'ah and be under its umbrella.

Second, it proclaims a more reasonable stand for the application of the Shari'ah calmly, carefully, and on a gradual basis that would spare society the consequences of sudden and jerky moves.

Therefore, the Egyptian Government cannot be accused of refusing to implement the Shari'ah, and those who differ with it can only accuse it of refusing to apply it immediately.

The other trend that actually exists in the arena, although not obviously apparent, is the extreme religious trend organized within the Islamic groups. The image of bearded young men is once again spreading among young people in the universities and villages. This image was evident during the last days of al-Sadat's rule. The reemergence of young men of this type can only indicate specific things--that the fundamentalist Islamic trend has strongly reappeared among youth.

These groups believe that Khomeyni's style is the most suitable and best among the styles that should be adopted in an Islamic society. Although the influence of these groups is weak and not noticeable at present--a situation further exacerbated by what Numayri did--yet this force must not be ignored in the debate between those who support and those who oppose the application of the Islamic Shari'ah. Despite its apparent weakness at present, it is a force that is growing daily but silently.

This trend adopts the extremist way of applying the Shari'ah by its categorical rejection of everything else--a rejection that can go as far as renouncing society. During the coming period this force is likely to become at least a pressure force, that is, unless conditions push it toward a clash.

EGYPT

BRIEFS

SUEZ CANAL INCOME--Cairo, 22 June (AFP)--Traffic using the Suez Canal went down by 7.6 percent in the first 5 months of this year, compared with the same period in 1984, the daily AL-AHRAM reported today. The Canal Authority blamed the decline on the war between Iran and Iraq and air raids on oil tankers in the Gulf. The global tonnage which passed through the canal was 146 million tonnes, against 157 million tonnes last year. Earlier this month, the president of the Canal Authority, 'Izzat 'Adil, warned that revenue from transit rights would decline by 6 percent this year. Last year transit rights earned Egypt 974 million dollars. [Text] [Paris AFP in English 1201 GMT 22 Jun 85 NC]

CSO: 4500/146

LIBYA

SOVIETS INTENSIFYING TRADE TIES WITH ALGERIA, LIBYA

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ZEITUNG/BLICK DURCH DIE WIRTSCHAFT in German
23 Apr 85 p 2

[Text] The Soviet Union maintains economic relations with all North African countries (Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco), which are particularly close to Algeria and Libya. The Soviet Union and the North African states are very interested in expanding bilateral trade. The Soviet partner delivers primarily investment goods and installations for development projects, in the execution of which it is frequently a participant. Noteworthy is the--again--improved relationship with Egypt which follows a more realistic economic course under Mubarak and has normalized economic relations with the Soviet Union.

In September 1984, the Soviet Union signed an agreement in Algeria with the state-owned Sonelgaz for the construction of a heating power plant near Jijel, which is to have three blocks of 210 megawatts each. One-third of the equipment is to be delivered by Algerian enterprises, the remaining two-thirds by the Soviet Union. Later on, the power plant is to supply electric energy primarily to the iron and steel complex of Bellara near Jijel which, after El Hadjar near Annaba, will be the country's second integrated complex.

For the El Hadjar iron and steel complex, which was in part equipped with Soviet blast furnaces and rolling mills, the crude steel capacity is listed as 1.8 to 2 million tons per year after completion of the second stage of expansion. A wire rolling mill there, delivered by the Soviet Union, has started up production with an annual capacity of 540,000 tons. In addition, two batteries of coke ovens with an annual capacity of 0.6 million tons each were started up, their construction having been awarded to the Soviet Union. Recently, a quicksilver mine near Azzaba was built by the Soviet Union. The Soviet state enterprise Zvetjetpromexport is presently involved in the construction of a natural gas pipeline which will go from Hassi Messaoud to Tinfouye. The section to be built by the Soviet Union is 421 kilometers in length.

The emphasis of economic cooperation in Libya is on the energy, petroleum and natural gas, iron and steel industry, and transportation sectors. In addition, the Soviet Union assists in agriculture and

health services. It has assumed new projects for expanding the transport of power current and the power distribution network, among them construction of several power transmission lines and planning for an interlinking power grid. The Soviet Union also constructed a nuclear research center in Tajoura near Tripoli. The building of a nuclear power station (880 Megawatts) is also projected.

The Soviet Union is also involved in the work for the second expansion stage of the Musurata iron and steel complex. It participates in various projects in artificial irrigation of agricultural land, among them the water supply of arable land in the area of Tripoli. The Soviet Union also took on construction of a natural gas pipeline, 570 km in length, and is participating in the search and exploration for petroleum and natural gas deposits.

Since September 1984, the Soviet Union is again represented in Egypt by an ambassador. This has concluded the reestablishment of full diplomatic relations and has achieved the normalization of relations after a long period of tension. It was announced in summer of 1984 that Egypt and the Soviet Union intend to expand the trade volume to over \$700 million during the period 1984/85. At the end of 1983, for the first time after a 6-year disruption, a trade agreement was signed. Egypt supplies primarily cotton yarn, textiles and citrus fruit and purchases from the Soviet Union mainly investment goods, spare parts, coal, wood, chemicals, newsprint, glass, and frozen fish.

Recently, the Soviet Union erected a cement factory in El Tabbin, Egypt. In the Heluan iron and steel complex near Cairo, several Soviet installations were set up. To be mentioned among the large projects formerly carried out by the Soviet Union are construction of the large Aswan dam with its power plant (2,100 Megawatts) and the Nag Hamadi aluminum mill in upper Egypt, whose annual capacity is now at 166,000 tons of crude aluminum.

The Soviet Union and Tunisia are interested in joint construction, on Tunisian soil, of a nuclear power plant, fertilizer factories, and a plant for the production of cross-country motor vehicles. In October 1983, the Soviet Union granted Tunisia a credit of 19 million rubles which is intended for the El Barak water supply complex and construction of small dams at the wadis of Tino, Douimes and Mellah. In the fall of 1983, at the Oued Joumine near Mateur, government district of Bizerta, the latest Tunisian dam was officially inaugurated having a water storage capacity of 70 million cubic meters.

One-quarter of the investment expenditure for this project was assumed by the Soviet Union. The Joumine dam makes possible artificial irrigation of 1500 hectares of arable land and ensures the water supply of the town of Bizerta, 45 km distant.

In Morocco, the Soviet Union was included in the development of the Mescala phosphate deposits. The Soviet state enterprise Isvetmet-promexport established an office in Casablanca which deals in exploration work. Morocco supplies the Soviet Union primarily with citrus fruit and fertilizers and, in turn, receives from the Soviet Union mostly crude oil and ammonia which is needed by the state Office Cherifien des Phosphates, Casablanca, for its subsidiary firms Maroc Chimie and Maroc Phosphore. The Soviet Union also took on construction of two hydroelectric plants in Morocco.

9917

CSO: 4620/39

LIBYA

KUWAITI PAPER ANALYZES LIBYAN-IRANIAN ALLIANCE

GF291438 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 28 Jun 85 p 1

/Political analysis by unidentified political editor: "Libyan-Iranian Alliance Pours Oil on War Fire"/

/Text/ The declared strategic alliance between Iran and Libya emphasizes the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war at a time when the Arab nation is trying to heal its wounds. In response to this alliance Iraq has declared its withdrawal of recognition of Libya as an Arab League member.

The statement issued following Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Libya indicates beyond all doubt that Libya sides with Iran against Iraq in the war. The statement came after a tour made by Libyan envoys to the Arab capitals to propose a unity plan. A Libyan envoy also visited Baghdad for the same purpose. The Libyan-Iranian statement came as a surprise in light of the Libyan endeavor to achieve Arab unity.

Despite its deficiencies the Arab League is governed by charters. The simplest of these charters, with the exception of the Arab joint defense charter, obliges Arab countries not to back any foreign country which is not a member of the Arab League against an Arab country, especially if that Arab country is defending its territory and is making proposals to end the war on the basis of international norms and laws.

Some Arab observers believe that the Libyan position is an unprecedented one and that this position will have dangerous consequences on the Arab League which is suffering from unjustified Arab divisions. They say that the Libyan bias in the war is aimed at introducing a new factor to the forthcoming Arab summit. This position, which has been adopted in a hurry and which does not take into account the blood link among the sons of the Arab nation and the consequences of that on the relations among the peoples, has poured oil on the fire of war, which has negative and devastating consequences on the Arab liberation movement and on the entire region.

Although the Iraqi-Iranian war has been described as useless and insane, any attempt, especially by Arab parties, to back the Iranian obstinacy over the continuation of war will benefit the foreign forces which have a definite interest in destroying Iraq and Iran.

CSO: 4500/147

LIBYA

WESTERN MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS ORDERED DESTROYED

LD030957 Tripoli JANA in English 0905 GMT 3 Jun 85

/Text/ Tripoli, Ramadan 15, 3 Jun, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--In accordance with the eternal dictum saying that "Peoples are only harmonious with their art and culture" and in realization of Zawarah historical declaration related to the cultural revolution and implementing the resolutions of the people's congresses calling for eradication of all remnants of reactionary culture and imported tools and also implementing the society's orientation concerned with getting rid of all cultures and folklores not related to our Arab society, the General People's Committee for Information and Culture, has shouldered the responsibility of getting rid and taking out Western musical instruments which contributed to deformation of our authentic Arab culture and heritage and offend public taste of this new masses society.

The General People's Committee for Information declared effective from yesterday, the destruction of all Western musical and instruments and all that can harm our arts and cultures of information materials and instruments. /sentence as received/

In continuation of the course of the cultural revolution for eradication of reactionary and bourgeois literature and confirmation of the innovative revolutionary literature, the masses last night and slogans hailing long life of the Great Al-Fatih, set ablaze and destroyed all Western musical instruments, strange to our Libyan Arab Society, at the green yard in Tripoli and 7 April ground in Al-Bayan al-Awwal, (Benghazi).

The masses expressed detest /as received/ and hatred to all Western destructive ideas confirming on commitment to Arab culture and literature since the peoples are only harmonious with their arts and cultures.

CSO: 4500/147

LIBYA

BRIEFS

SUDANESE DEFENSE MINISTER VISIT--Misuratah, Shawal 16, 3 Jul--JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Maj Gen 'Uthman Abdallah Muhammad, member of the Sudanese Transitional Military Council and Defense Minister and Brig Abu-Kakr Unis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces toured last night the city of Misuratah during which they visited iron and steel complex and the harbor of Misuratah. They were received at the iron and steel complex by secretary of the general people's committee for heavy industries and members of the people's committee of Misuratah municipality and several officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces. Maj Gen 'Uthman Abdallah and accompanying delegation were briefed about the complex and he expressed high amazement of this gigantic achievement created by the free and revolutionary will along the path of achieving progress and building a better future. The Sudanese delegation and Brig Abu-Bakr also visited the air college of Misuratah and were briefed on its various departments and the high scientific standards it reached, this scientific fortress for building of the able individual to defend and protect the Arab territory. The students of the college flew over Misuratah greeting the brotherly Sudanese delegation and demonstrating their high skills and experience in learning properly the modern aeronautic sciences. /Text/ /Tripoli JANA in English 0835 GMT 3 Jul 85/

CSO: 4500/147

BAHRAIN

BRIEFS

OIL TRADE SURPLUS--According to statements received by the Bahrain Monetary Fund from the Petroleum Department of the Ministry of Development and Industry and the Central Statistics Directorate, the balance in Bahrain's oil trade in the first quarter of 1985 has risen to 110 million Bahraini dinars, compared with 97.6 million dinars in the same period in 1984, and 96 million dinars in the last quarter of 1984. Bahrain Monetary Agency official attributes the surplus to the fact that Bahrain's petroleum exports totaled 241.2 million dinars while its petroleum imports totaled 131.2 million dinars in the first quarter of 1985. In the last quarter of 1984 Bahrain's petroleum exports totaled 228.3 million dinars, while its imports of petroleum products totaled 132.3 million dinars. The official said that in March 1985 alone, Bahrain exported 80.2 million dinars worth of petroleum products and imported only 44.1 million dinars worth of petroleum products. [Summary] [Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 7 Jul 85 pp 1, 9 GF]

NONOIL EXPORTS FALL--Non-oil exports from Bahrain were at their lowest level last year since 1981, according to figures released by the Bahrain Monetary Agency. Exports valued at BD159.2 million left the country, with other Arab countries, including the GCC, being the main takers. Nineteen eighty-three saw total non-oil exports of BD230.7 million, 1982, BD242.7 million and 1981 BD174.9 million. Of the 1984 total, just under half went to the Arab world and the bulk of the rest went to Asian countries, mainly India and Japan. Europe took BD6.2 million in exports, America BD12.2 million, with Australia and New Zealand between them notching up BD176,000. Non-oil imports were also down, from the BD720.4 million of 1983 to BD706.4 million last year. European countries supply the bulk of imports, with BD303.6 million last year, against the 237.3 million from Asia and BD106.4 million from America. [Text] [Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 7 Jul 85 p 1 GF]

CSO: 4400/188

IRAQ

IRAQI TV DENOUNCES KHOMEYNI'S DICTATORSHIP

GF041320 Baghdad Television Service in Persian 0830 GMT 4 Jun 85

/Unattributed commentary/

/Excerpts/ Dear viewers, Iranian Muslim brothers and sisters. Nations never forget the bitter memories of days, months and years spent under the cruelty of oppressors thirsty for war and blood. Such bitterness cannot be forgotten. Whatever tricks dictators use to enter the scene, they are similar in several ways. They are thirsty for blood and absolute power. They all wish to establish their own rule and interestingly enough, the destiny of all dictators has also been the same. They all become targets of the anger of nations and history has written only bad things about them.

Khomeyni is the complete embodiment of such dictators and cannot be exempt from this general principle either. When people of Iran brought Khomeyni to power, it was difficult for them to realize how such a pseudoclergyman can have such deep roots in bloodsucking, warmongering, greed, and aggression. Now, experience has shown them that other dictatorships have been amateurish compared to Khomeyni and his regime. They are ruling the destiny of the people of Iran through trickery and deception. They have again resurrected their movement in order to uproot the foundations of oppression and /word indistinct/.

Khomeyni who wishes to sacrifice everyone and everything by continuing this destructive war. He has used this weapon as a double-edged sword for his own interests. On the one hand he turns the smallest cries of peace at home into great opposition to religion and Islam and thus tries to suffocate all voices. At the same time he has neutralized international efforts for peace by stubbornness and violations of international laws. Thus he receives crushing blows from three sides. The regime has no way to return to the bosom of the Iranian nation. In other words /word indistinct/.

The increase in adventurism and ignoring all of Iraq's self-control and political flexibility has forced the Iraqi armed forces to forego their normal activities and increase their mortal blows against Khomeyni and his cronies and thus further show their power to this oppressive regime. Khomeyni takes the war to the United Nations in order to divide its various stages /as heard/ and in order to find food for its propaganda misuse. This will only be another disappointment for him.

Iraq has agreed to all UN resolutions every time. It is the oppressive regime ruling Iran that has always violated such international, regional and Islamic principles. Therefore, Iraq again stresses that it will not accept a partial ceasefire and as long as a total ceasefire is not accepted by the Khomeyni regime. It will continue to deal its killing blows against the empty heads of the rulers of the Qom and Jamaran, these bloodsucking parasites of filth.

CSO: 4400/195

JORDAN

TIMES COLUMNIST ON NEW CENTRAL BANK REGULATIONS

JN070935 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Jul 85 p 4

[Fahd Fanik Article: "Sunday's Economic Plus"]

[Text] Last week, Deputy Governor Husayn al-Qasim was appointed as governor of the Central Bank of Jordan as of 1 August 1985 to replace Dr Muhammad Sa'i al-Nabulsi, who occupied this sensitive post for 12 years.

Had it not been for the controversial renewals, the term of the governor is 5 years. However, since the Central Bank was established in the early 60s, only two governors assumed responsibility.

In the following day after the announcement was made, the Central Bank issued an important amendment to the requirement of commercial-banks' liquidity.

The new order brought into the formula, currently used to calculate liquidity, the following new items which were not so far accepted as legal liquidity:

1. Discounted commercial bills, the maturity of which should not exceed 3 months, provided they represent (real) commercial transactions.
2. Investments in the shares of specialised lending institutions, such as Housing Bank and the Industrial Development Bank.
3. Investments in certificates of deposit issued by any local bank or financial company.

It is obvious that the sole purpose of the new circular is to statistically inflate liquidity so that all banks will look liquid--by showing not only the minimum liquidity rate of 25 percent but much higher rate.

The new regulations are also capable of tempting some banks to over-expand, and lend their real liquidity depending on a statistical liquidity created by the change in the formula.

In prudent banking, commercial discounted bills are considered as bank credit facility extended to customers, but by no means constitute liquidity. There is no practical way of making sure that such bills do represent real commercial transactions, and that they will be honoured at maturity.

On the other hand, shares listed in the stock exchange represent long-term investment, and could not be treated as liquidity, even in Europe and the United States where this proposition is more feasible, and the stock exchange is more efficient and dependable.

Certificates of deposit (CD's) in a bank portfolio are as good as inter-bank deposits, which are legally included in the liquidity, but only in a (net) form. If we equate CD's with interbank deposits, only the excess of CD's owned over CD's issued to other banks should be included. Otherwise, artificial liquidity can easily be created, out of the thin air, simply by exchanging CD's between two or more banks or financial institutions.

Bank A will buy CD's worth JD 5 million from Bank B against selling the same value of its own CD's. Both banks will add JD 5 million to their respective liquidity, simply by signing forms and exchanging the stationary!

In general, the new circular issued to the banks last Sunday makes it possible for a banker to expand beyond real liquidity limit. It also helps to cover up any excess already taking place.

The Banking Law, in its Article 17 Paragraph A, specified all items that constitute legal liquidity. These items do not include any shares or CD's.

Apparently, the Central Bank based the order on Sub Paragraph 7 of the above article, which referred to "any other items considered by the Central Bank to qualify for liquidity."

This however, does not imply a wide-open door to include, besides commercial paper, items such as certain categories of shares, or exchanged certificates of deposit without offsetting or netting.

There is no reason to fear that all our banks will rush to take advantage of this opportunity, to lend more money, depending on these generous loopholes, offered as a windfall by the Central Bank's order.

However, the question remains: Why should the Central Bank volunteer to open, during a transitional month, such a wide loophole which could be misused.

It is advisable that the Central Bank re-consider this circular, or close the loopholes by making the appropriate modifications to the subject circular, or withdrawing it altogether, before being acted upon by the commercial banks.

Safe and sound banking should always be the over-riding consideration.

CSO: 4400/189

JORDAN

BRIEFS

SWISS DEVELOPMENT LOAN--Bern, 1 July (PETRA)--An agreement between the governments of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Switzerland has been signed here. According to the agreement, the Swiss Government and a group of Swiss banks will extend a 9 million dinars long-term loan to Jordan to finance a number of development projects. [Excerpts] [Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1434 GMT 1 Jul 85 JN]

CSO: 4400/189

LEBANON

LEBANESE MILITIA COMMANDER VIEWS SECURITY STRIP SITUATION

TA231121 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Jun 85 p 13

/Report on an interview with Gen Antoine Lahd, commander of the Army of Southern Lebanon /ASL/, By Arab affairs correspondent Shefi Gabay; date and place not given/

/Text/ We asked Gen Antoine Lahd, the commander of the ASL: What would be your reaction if Israel one day decides to hand over the security strip to the Shi'ite Amal militia? The general unequivocally answered he was willing to disband his army within 24 hours. "I promise to remain friends with you.... However, in my opinion this is not the solution, and from my experience--not as a general, but rather as a Lebanese civilian--you should not count on any Lebanese promises or guarantees."

According to Lahd the Shi'ites have determined that Israel is their enemy. Their clerics have even cultivated the "message" that they will "free" Jerusalem through southern Lebanon. He says Amal is made up of many elements, from the radical right to the communist left. Part of Amal is directed by Syria, another part by Iran, and a considerable part is directly manipulated by the Soviet Union.

General Lahd told us that the small number of his troops suffices to maintain security in the security strip and that he has the necessary resources to combat all varieties of terrorism. "You must realize we are familiar with the villages and villagers in the territory under our control, and with every road and path in this area. We know how to take care of strangers who appear in our territory."

General Lahd says with pride: "Two Muslim brigades tried to attack the Christian town of Jazzin, but we, with only 70 soldiers entrenched in Kafr Falus, which is in the outskirts of Jazzin, taught the Muslims a lesson and halted their advance."

Lahd knows his army is a target for the various militias, especially the pro-Syrian, pro-Iranian and communist militias. According to him he is thoroughly prepared for this. "These militias have attacked us in the past. Now, however, following the Israeli withdrawal, they have increased their attacks against us." He emphasized that he decided to react against these attacks with what he defined as "Lebanese methods." He did not elaborate, but his aides said that

in the last few weeks terrorists planted bombs on the patrol road used by the ASL in the northern part of the security strip. The ASL soldiers discovered the bombs before they exploded but nevertheless the nearby Shi'ite villages, which are controlled by Amal, were shelled and the villagers were forced to flee.

General Lahd explains: "We are strong and can foil most of the attacks in the security strip, so long as the situation remains as it is today. However, if the Syrian Army intervenes, the situation will change. So far Syrian activity in this area is limited, but if they increase their activity this would be your problem. We maintain security, but this does not mean that no katyusha will fall in the Galilee or the security strip. We have done--and still do--much to prevent attacks against Israel, and I will use this opportunity to divulge that to date we have foiled a large number of attacks. We foil 80 percent of the attempted attacks against you and ourselves."

He emphasized that the mission of the ASL is not to protect the northern border--this is the role of the IDF. He added, however, that his army needs the support of the IDF in the technical and logistical spheres.

Answering another question Lahd said his army took upon itself to protect the Christian town of Jazzin, even though the IDF withdrew from it more than a month ago. He said the residents of Jazzin face the danger of being massacred by the Muslim militias in Sidon and Tyre. "The ASL agreed to withdraw from Sidon and its vicinity because we wanted to give the Lebanese Government and Army the opportunity to protect the inhabitants as they promised to do. However, following our withdrawal the army was unable to take control over the city and its vicinity. Moreover, it participated with the Muslims in massacring Christians and expelling them from their neighborhoods, villages and towns in the area. We do not want the inhabitants of Jazzin to turn into refugees."

General Lahd says the mission of the UNIFIL soldiers no longer fits the present situation. "In principle we respect the United Nations and want to help the UNIFIL soldiers, but this only on the condition that they do not take upon themselves missions not included in the framework of the Security Council mandate. For example, the last incident between us and UNIFIL proves that this peace force deviated from its specified mission. UNIFIL takes part in local conflicts, and it is not allowed to do so. In the past they caught Palestinian terrorists and now they want to catch my soldiers."

General Lahd wants UNIFIL to recognize his army just as it recognizes Amal and other militias. "We demand that there be coordination between us, in order to prevent any incidents. However, UNIFIL refuses to answer us concerning this issue. We claim that Amal is not the legal authority in Lebanon. It is just another militia."

General Lahd says the Shi'ite community in the security strip contributed only a small number of soldiers to his army, even though it has a numerical majority in this area. According to him the Shi'ite community wants to aid the ASL, but it is afraid of the extremist Shi'ites. He admits that during the last month 40 Shi'ite soldiers deserted from his army and joined Amal, even though they have families in the security strip. According to him this is caused by fears in the Shi'ite community of revenge by the Muslim militias.

LEBANON

LEBANESE ENVOY INTERVIEW

AB111616 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 10 Jun 85 p 29

/Interview with Michel Salamah, Lebanese ambassador to Ivory Coast, by Yaya Sow; date and place not given/

/Text/ Sow: Your Excellency, the Palestinian camps are currently the scene of bloody clashes between Shi'ite militiamen and the Palestinians. What are the reasons for these clashes which are going on to the detriment of the Palestinians, who are gradually losing ground?

Salamah: The Palestinians in Lebanon have committed a lot of mistakes and abuses. They have had their way in Lebanon and created a state within the Lebanese State as it were. Many Lebanese think that the misfortunes of Lebanon have their origin in the Palestinian presence. And before the Israeli invasion in 1982, the Palestinians in southern Lebanon were committing excesses and abuses against the people of this region who are mostly Shi'ites. It is for this reason that now the Shi'ites do not want the situation to return to what it was at that date. The policy of the Lebanese Government and the Lebanese militia is very clear: the Palestinians are brothers; they can have the right of refuge in Lebanon but they must submit themselves to Lebanese laws by not forming a state within the Lebanese State. The Lebanese war itself is a direct consequence of these abuses and kidnappings perpetrated by the Palestinians.

/Question/ To what can the fresh outbreaks in the development of these combats be attributed?

/Answer/ The clashes between the Shi'ite militiamen and the Palestinians began on 17 May this year and are the result of the various feelings of frustration which thus set the straws ablaze. It must be recalled that the Palestinian camps are surrounded by Shi'ite inhabitants who have never been on good terms in their close and daily contacts with the Palestinians. The Shi'ites are also dominant in the south of the country where they do not want a sudden return of the Palestinians. Their stated objective is to subject the Palestinians to the Lebanese laws, to combat the armed Palestinian presence which is embarrassing, and to restore security among all Lebanese.

/Question/ What is the position of Yasir 'Arafat himself on this situation? The PLO chief recently made a statement condemning the brutalities suffered by his people in Lebanon.

/Answer/ It must be said that Yasir 'Arafat himself had the intention of returning to Lebanon--after being forced to leave--as part of his fight against the dissident section of his movement and against Syria. He wanted, by so doing, to regain control over the camps and dominate the Palestinians there. But I suppose that the solution will be that the pro-Syrian Palestinians should take control of the camps in agreement with the Lebanese.

/Question/ Let us leave the purely Palestinian question aside and let us talk of the general situation of the war in Lebanon. It is known that several abortive attempts have been made to resolve the Lebanese crisis. Syria has always been involved in the affair and invited to help in finding solutions to the Lebanese problem. It is a fact that all the Lebanese leaders have traveled to Syria on several occasions and Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil recently went to Damascus for the umpteenth time. Do you think Syria can really help to end the war in Lebanon?

/Answer/ In the present context, Syria actually has an interest in the pacification of Lebanon because a Lebanon at peace and on good terms with Syria would augur well for the Syrian policy in the region, particularly as an important interlocutor for any solution in the Middle East.

/Question/ How do you see the end of the war in Lebanon?

/Answer/ The events which are poisoning Lebanon cannot end without a consensus between the Lebanese themselves. A means must be found to live together in a new Lebanon which would take into consideration the composition of Lebanon by different communities which aspire for security. When the leaders of Lebanon arrived at a formula which ensures the security of the various communities, then the war will end and will have no cause to exist. This is why for nearly 1 year, the various Lebanese groups are turning to Syria to find some help in arriving at that formula. The Syrians, on their part, are making official declarations which stress the unity, peace, independence and integrity of Lebanon....

/Question/ And the Israeli presence? Has Israel really withdrawn from Lebanon?

/Answer/ The regular Israeli Army has left but Israel seems to have opted for its pre-1982 policy, that is, the maintaining on Lebanese soil of a small army financed and trained by the Jewish state, the Southern Lebanon Army. With this army (which aims at maintaining a buffer zone 10 to 15 km wide in Lebanese territory to check infiltrations into Israeli territory), they have left behind 500 Israeli soldiers in Lebanon. I think this is going to create three problems:

1. For the Lebanese Government which has never accepted the creation of this buffer-zone and which has never accorded legality to the Southern Lebanon Army.
2. For the Southern Lebanon Army itself because that is going to create a fresh outbreak of attacks against it; those who were not afraid of the Israeli Army will not be afraid of this Southern Lebanon Army. Nabih Berri, leader of the Shi'ite Amal movement and minister in charge of southern Lebanon had declared: "We will fight the Southern Lebanon Army just as we fought the Israeli Army."

3. For Israel also which is telling international and national opinion that she has left Lebanon whereas in fact she is still there by leaving behind something which will not serve its security much.

/Question/ The last question is related to the general situation in the Middle East in the light of the latest developments in that region. How do you think the outcome of this situation is taking shape?

/Answer/ The Middle East problem is very complex but despite its complexity a solution could be found to it if the interest of the parties involved are taken into account. And it is for this that the king of Jordan insists on the holding of an international conference on peace in the Middle East, taking into consideration the interests of everybody in the region. Any solution which does not take this context into account could be decided upon but it would be difficult for it to last.

CSO: 4400/195

LEBANON

FILIPINOS REPORTEDLY BEING IMPRESSED BY LEBANESE FACTIONS

HK210711 Manila TIMES JOURNAL in English 20 Jun 85 pp 1, 4

/Article by Alberto T. Rous/

/Text/ Warring Shi'ite Muslim and Christian camps in Lebanon were reported yesterday to be forcing some 300 Filipino workers to dig trenches.

These workers, the reports said, were recruited for forced labor because they have been /word indistinct/ illegal workers. Their passports are either fake or had expired, and they have no work permits.

Two workers who have managed to return have reported the plight of their colleagues to Member of Parliament Antonion Raquiza. The workers, both surnamed Madamba, appealed to the authorities to help repatriate their fellowworkers.

A plan by a newly-organized firm, R. V. International Corp, to hire the jobless Filipinos in Lebanon has been referred to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) for approval since the company has no license to operate as a placement agency.

Since the ban on the issuance of licenses to placement agencies has not yet been lifted, the firm planning to hire them will have to be authorized to operate as a service contractor.

Acting POEA Administrator Cresencio Siddayao said he will act on the request after consulting with his advisers.

According to the report relayed to Siddayao by Raquiza, unemployed, illegally staying workers were often grabbed from the streets by soldiers of either warring camp to work for 3 days digging trenches. They are fed but are not paid. After 3 days, they are released and scouts are again sent out to look for other "recruits."

The report said Filipino women are also being "used" by the soldiers but it did not specify for what particular services.

In this connection, the POEA also wired the labor attached in Saudi Arabia last week to contact an influential Saudi Arabian employer regarding complaints filed by a Filipino doctor who used to work in his clinic.

The doctor, who has since returned to the Philippines, was once imprisoned for moonlighting but the physician denied this and denounced his Saudian employer to Malacanang a few weeks upon his arrival.

The physician's disclosures on the working conditions of Filipinos in the Arabian's clinic prompted Malacanang to issue call for their repatriation without delay.

CSO: 4400/195

LEBANON

KUWAITI PAPER: AL-NAHAR CHIEF EDITOR DENIES PAPER'S SALE

GF072020 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 6 Jul 85 pp 1, 21

/Text/ The /Lebanese/ newspaper AL-NAHAR is not for sale and will continue to be a testimony to Lebanese unity and freedom. This was asserted by Ghassan Tuwayni in a telephone conversation with AL-SIYASAH yesterday, in which he expressed surprise at the report published by AL-SIYASAH yesterday on negotiations to sell AL-NAHAR and arrangements to transfer many of its editors to another paper AL-JUMHURIYAH.

Ghassan Tumayni, whose name is linked with AL-NAHAR and who is chairman of the board of directors and editor in chief of the paper, said that the report is totally untrue and lacks the knowledge that AL-NAHAR is a shareholding company, and no person can dispose of it as the report suggested. The report in yesterday's AL-SIYASAH said that negotiations for AL-NAHAR's sale took place in Paris between Ghassan al-Tuwayni and the Lebanese businessman Rafiq al-Hariri for 200 million Lebanese pounds.

"AL-NAHAR is not for sale, not to Rafiq al-Hariri, who is my friend, and not to any other person. The paper and its editors--who have stood fast throughout the war--will continue to be published from its premises in Al-Hamra' Street in west Beirut as a living testimony to Lebanon's unity and Lebanese freedom in the present government of national unity." In his telephone conversation with AL-SIYASAH Tuwayni said: "We are not thinking at all--and there is no reason to think--of moving to another place."

Commenting on what was published by AL-SIYASAH yesterday that there are arrangements to transfer some of AL-NAHAR's editors to a paper that will be published by Michel al-Murr, a former Lebanese minister, in east Beirut and which will be called AL-JUMHURIYAH, Tuwayni said: We know nothing about AL-JUMHURIYAH's existence or about Michel al-Murr buying it. Michel al-Murr has his own policy and has no connection whatsoever with AL-NAHAR.

CSO: 4400/195

BRIEFS

SALE OF LEBANESE PAPER--AL-SIYASAH has learned that secret negotiations were held in Paris between Rafiq al-Hariri and Ghassan Tuwayni regarding the selling of the Lebanese daily newspaper AL-NAHAR to al-Hariri. The deal includes the concession of AL-NAHAR newspaper, its printing press and the building where its offices are located in Beirut and all equipment and machines belonging to the AL-NAHAR firm. AL-SIYASAH has also learned that the value of the deal is estimatea at 200 million Lebanese pounds. It is worth noting that the deal reached its final stages after the completion of all the necessary procedures. At the same time, AL-SIYASAH has learned that the famous and major editors who currently work for AL-NAHAR newspaper will leave the newspaper to work for a new newspaper that will be published in eastern Beirut. The new newspaper, which will be named AL-JAMHURIYAH, will be founded by former minister Michael al-Murr. /Excerpt/ /Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 5 Jul 85 pp 1, 21/

CSO: 4400/195

OMAN

BRIEFS

EXPANDED AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM--Oman -- The integrated air defence system in Oman is to be extended and enhanced with radar equipment supplied by Marconi Radar Systems of Britain. The contract is worth BD 19 million and follows orders placed by the Omani Air Force with Marconi in 1976 and 1979. Major elements of the new contract are two long-range radars and their associated display and data handling systems. The contract also covers updating and extension of the existing sector operations and control and reporting centres. [Text] [Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 7 Jul 85 p 11 GF]

CSO: 4400/191

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

SYRIAN MEASURES AGAINST PALESTINIAN FACTIONS

GF051922 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 4 Jul 85 pp 1, 21

[Dispatch from Beirut]

[Text] Palestinian sources in Beirut have asserted that Syria has begun to use the "iron fist" policy, according to the sources, toward the Palestinian resistance factions that are stationed on Syrian territories including the factions of the Palestine National Salvation Front. These sources said that the Syrian authorities have so far arrested more than 400 members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], banned its leaders from leaving Damascus, and placed others under house arrest. The sources went on to say that Syrian intelligence detained also 265 members of the PFLP-GC and 340 members of the PFLP. People arriving in Beirut from Damascus said that the detained Palestinian elements have been subjected to intensive investigations in many centers belonging to Syrian intelligence.

The sources also reported that the Syrian authorities closed down all the newspapers and magazines that are the mouthpieces of these factions, and arrested their employees. The sources also reported that the Syrian security forces and the Ba'th youths are currently besieging Al-Thawrah and Al-Yarmuk camps after having arrested over 1,500 people. They also confiscated a huge number of weapons and began interrogating all the camps' residents. The sources said that a large number of the officers of the Palestine Liberation Army are currently under house arrest including the army commander, Tariq al-Khadra. The sources pointed out that more than 50 military vehicles belonging to the Palestinian factions were confiscated last week. The heavy weapons belonging to these factions were also confiscated. Quoting Palestinian leadership sources in Damascus, these sources said that these measures were adopted in accordance with the Syrian decision to take part in peace talks, particularly after Syria's success in releasing the hostages of the U.S. plane recently hijacked to Beirut.

CSO: 4400/187

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

PALESTINIAN POLITBURO MEMBER EXCORIATES AMMAN ACCORD

Paris AL-YASAR AL-'ARABI in Arabic Apr 85 pp 10-12

[Interview with Sulayman al-Najjab by Fadi Tawfiq: "Interview with Comrade Sulayman al-Najjab, Amman Accord: Its Abrogation Is a National Necessity! PLO National Program Is Palestinian Communist Party Program. Adherence to Soviet Proposals Is National Duty"; date and place not specified; Paris AL-YASAR AL-'ARABI in Arabic; monthly organ of the Egyptian Communist Party]

[Text] AL-YASAR AL-'ARABI met with comrade Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the Palestinian Communist Party politburo. The meeting zeroed in on developments in the Palestinian arena which are very many and very complicated.

"They require a political report," was comrade al-Najjab's comment on our questions, which were many in view of the hot Palestinian events with all their complexities and intricacies.

Therefore, the interview focused on issues in the Palestinian area, beginning with the hot event, the Husayn-'Arafat accord, which was completed as a result of Mubarak's proposals, concentrating on the horizons of the Democratic Alliance and the Aden-Algiers accord and ending with the role of the Palestinian Communist Party and the Soviet initiative.

The interview thus tried to cover the most important aspects of events in the Palestinian arena, as follows:

[Question] The announcement of the Husayn-'Arafat accord was a culmination of a full phase of concessions and retreats by the Palestinian right. What are your observations about that phase and that accord?

[Answer] The accord signed in Amman on 11 February 1985 between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat was an announcement of a special relationship and a special alliance between Jordan and the PLO's official leadership. This means a special recognition by this leadership of Jordan's special role in helping the Palestinian people regain their rights. It is not enough to get acquainted with the special role of the Jordanian regime and to use the accord's provisions as an arbiter, but the policy followed by this regime toward deterring Zionist aggression ever since it occurred in 1967,

the liberation of occupied Arab territory and guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people must also be examined.

This regime's course has been marked, ever since that date, with betting on entreating the rulers of Washington and the other NATO countries to bring pressure to bear on the Israeli rulers to return the occupied territory in implementation of UNGA Resolution 242. The rulers of Jordan expressed their continued readiness to give up some of the occupied territory, not once putting forth the Palestinian people's cause as one of self-determination. They joined the Zionist and imperialist forces in depriving this people of its right to establish its independent state in 1948.

At that time, the Jordanian rulers adopted a stance of hostility and suppression of all manifestations of national resistance against the Israeli occupation. The September 1970 massacres were a stark demonstration of such hostility, as was their stand on the activities of the Palestinian national forces inside the occupied territories themselves, a stand of beleaguerment, starvation and imprisonment.

The Amman accord means that the official PLO leadership depends and bets on this Jordanian course. By signing this agreement with it, it has given it credibility for a policy it does not deserve. The provisions of the accord do not contradict this course, but rather confirm it as the official policy of both sides.

The Jordanian rulers are trying to cover up the ignominy of their course by relying on some class forces of landowners and the Palestinian bourgeoisie who, since 1948, used to represent a part of the Jordanian regime's social base, and by relying as well on the remnants of the Jordanian bureaucracy on the West Bank. These are isolated voices that are alienated from their people and their cause, and are unable, despite all the financial and administrative support they receive from the Jordanian regime, to form a political current with influence in the occupied territory. The Amman accord will not improve their situation.

By signing the Amman accord, by expressing its readiness to relinquish its status as the sole representative of the Palestinians--joining the Jordanian rulers in this--and by confining the right to self-determination to the framework of a confederation with Jordan, the official PLO leadership relied on the Jordanian rulers' same course. This compromises these two basic principles in hope of finding a common ground with the Reagan plan, thus joining these same Palestinian class forces which have been adopted by the Jordanian regime and which form historically the social base of the American solution, and haggling over the goal of national independence for the Palestinian people.

In this reply of ours lies the class interpretation and the selfish class interests of these retreats and concessions you mentioned in your question. Part of these concessions go back to the retreats and concessions offered by similar class forces in the rightist and reactionary Arab regimes. These

forces, when they raise the slogan of "saving what can be saved," exactly mean saving their own interests, their lowly selfish interests, at the expense of the national interests.

To justify their retreat, these forces take advantage of the objective difficulties facing the entire Arab liberation movement in general and the Palestinian national movement in particular. [These] difficulties are certainly great but temporary and can be overcome through persistent efforts to tilt the balance of power in favor of the Arab liberation forces and through the consolidation of the alliance with the Soviet Union and the socialist camp countries.

Role of Democratic Alliance

[Question] The Democratic Alliance was able to play an effective role in the pre-Amman session phase. However, this role has begun to recede. What is the reason for that?

[Answer] The Democratic Alliance was able to play an effective role in defending the unity of the PLO on the basis of its national line and in working to consolidate its alliances with the Arab and international liberation forces because it represents, from the political and class point of view, the forces who are more loyal to the goal of national independence for the Palestinian people, who adhere more than others to the PLO's program for the return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state and who are more determined to continue the struggle to achieve these goals. The Democratic Alliance, with its forces comprising the Palestinian Communist Party, the Democratic Front, the Popular Front and the Palestinian Liberation Front, represents the working class, the toiling Palestinians in the city and the countryside, the petite bourgeoisie and the revolutionary educated class in the homeland and the diaspora. Through its deep awareness of the nature of the phase through which the Palestinian national struggle is passing, the phase of national liberation, this alliance fully realizes its role and responsibility in safeguarding the unity of the PLO as the Palestinian national front that includes, and must include, all the forces that have a stake in national liberation. Hence the democratic stand in the face of the endeavors to split the PLO, be it by the forces who are trying to relinquish the goal of national independence or those who raised foolhardy radical national slogans and bet on bringing down the rightist forces by splitting the PLO itself. The Democratic Alliance, in defending the unity of the PLO, opposed and is still opposing not only the practices that infringe upon this unity, but also any political idea that departs from the national consensus resolutions, and relies on the legitimacy of the PNC resolutions in resisting the forces that are trying to rebel against this legitimacy.

The democratic alliance, in performing its national role, did not take off from parochial, sectarian, self-serving calculations, but from the defense of the interests of the entire national movement and its gains. That is why it gained great credibility and esteem, opening the realistic horizon for solving the difficult problems of the PLO and for coming out of its crisis intact, beginning with the implementation of the Aden-Algiers accord.

The current difficulties and the Democratic Alliance's inability to enforce the Aden-Algiers accord and to adopt it as the PLO's official policy compounded the pressures exercised on some of its sides by the rightist and reckless leaders of the crisis, thus influencing the role of some of the democratic alliance's sides and requiring from all its sides great efforts for consolidating its ranks and continuing its distinctive march from the political and methodological point of view to confront the new perils.

Our party will continue to consolidate the Democratic Alliance and to widen its circle of relations and its role in the framework of the PLO, adopting the same policy and the same method. We will let life pressure some of its sides whose relations with it have weakened, while seeking in principle and in good faith to continue our cooperation with them on the issues we have agreed upon without paralyzing our party or the movement of the Democratic Alliance itself.

Aden-Algiers Accord Basis for Getting Out of Dilemma

[Question] Do you think that the Aden-Algiers accord, on which the curtain has dropped, is still an appropriate basis for movement in the Palestinian arena, and how do you view the coming phase from the political viewpoint in the Palestinian arena?

[Answer] The curtain has not dropped on the Aden-Algiers accord, although its implementation has been blocked by new and serious difficulties which must be surmounted in a way that helps the implementation of this agreement. The forces that were compelled, albeit in form, to recognize the Aden-Algiers accord, and the forces that resisted it since its enforcement as well, are now trying to get rid of this accord and drop the curtain on it. However, all the developments which followed the signing of this accord confirm its vitality and soundness, and all the other solutions which were adopted to overcome the PLO's crisis and the aggravations and perils brought about by the crisis underscored the fact that the only way out is to implement this accord.

The political side of the Aden-Algiers accord emphasizes adherence to the goals of the Palestinian national struggle and holds accountable the forces who try to violate it. The organizational side is sure to put a stop to all practices which do not respect the national consensus resolutions, put an end to any excesses, open the way for the start of a far-reaching and essential reform process in the various PLO institutions in a way that would bolster its role in the service of the national struggle and its leadership, guarantee its cohesion to its masses and consolidate the unity of its national forces. In this organizational side as well, the terms of the Aden-Algiers accord conform to the objective necessity that dictates that the composition of the PLO's institutions reflect the existing political and class balance of power in the Palestinian national movement and that each force be represented to the same degree as its contribution and role in the national struggle.

The procedural side of the Aden-Algiers accord, which relies on the principle of universal democratic dialogue and PLO arbitration, highlights the only sound principle for getting out of the PLO's current dilemma. Our commitment to it reflects our respect and appreciation for our people's awareness and sophisticated and mature experience as it reflects as well our concern for and desire to safeguard the PLO and its institution in our practices.

The signing of the Amman accord by the PLO's official leadership and its ratification by Fatah's central committee have placed a serious obstacle in the way of resuming the national dialogue for the sake of regaining the unity of the PLO on the basis of the Aden-Algiers accord. Its continued adherence to the Amman accord and its ramifications threatens a serious schism in the PLO's ranks caused by the deviation of some of its forces from the national consensus program. Any national dialogue must take off from one political premise, which is adherence to the goals of return self-determination, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and the solemnity of PLO's representation of the Palestinian people. This calls upon Fatah's leadership to abandon the Amman accord for the sake of continuing the efforts to regain the unity of the PLO on the basis of the Aden-Algiers accord. The Fatah leadership is responsible for the discontinuance of efforts to continue the dialogue.

Our party, along with other sides in the democratic alliance and broad Palestinian national forces within and outside our occupied territory, is mobilizing the forces and enlisting the masses around one central slogan, which is the abrogation of the Amman accord. We are confident that this accord will be abrogated and the forces, who are clinging to it, will be further isolated. We will not make any tactical or political mistakes that can impede this mass mobilization process. We will not engage in any futile controversies over any other controversial issue. We reject any logic seeking to drag us into the game of amending the accord.

We also refuse to get involved in any organizational formula for mobilizing the forces who oppose the accord at the expense of the PLO's unity or in anything else which may threaten this unity. The political objective now is to unite the political positions of the anti-accord forces who are seeking its abrogation. The real mobilization of these forces--and they are wide-spread--is done in the street and through the anti-accord battle aimed at abrogating it. Our broad masses, in the occupied territory in particular, are attuned to our position, as evidenced by the tens of thousands of signatures collected on memoranda calling for the immediate abrogation of the accord, including the Fatah masses. We shall continue this campaign and shall persist in our struggle through other tactical means until the accord is canceled.

The developments that followed the signing of the accord, the most serious of which is the Husni Mubarak initiative, which not only calls for Camp David but also uses its exact same words, underscore the truth of all our previous warnings of the perils of liquidating our national cause, since the concessions began with their main stations: 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, the convocation of the council in Amman and the recent signing of the Husayn-'Arafat accord.

The Husni Mubarak initiative undermined all the statements about new changes in his policy and about differences between him and his predecessor, al-Sadat. We were against all these statements from the first day and we warned against them. We believe some well-intentioned people will see with their own eyes the truth of the endeavors of the rulers who are still shackling Great Egypt with Camp David and of the role they are playing. We have always distinguished between the policy of these rulers and between Egypt and its national and pan-Arab role. We stood and are still standing against the course followed by these rulers so that Egypt may reclaim its great role in the Arab liberation movement. We are confident that the Egyptian national and progressive forces who opposed the Camp David course will triumph.

Role of the Palestinian Communist Party

[Question] The Palestinian Communist Party has assumed an important progressive national role in the Palestinian arena ever since the PLO crisis came into being. How do you assess this role?

[Answer] The Palestinian communists have played a prominent role in the national struggle of the Palestinian people throughout the various stages of this struggle. Life has witnessed the soundness of the solution the Palestinian communists put forth for their national cause and for their people in their fight against the Zionist, imperialist and reactionary forces, on the ground that it is a cause of self-determination and their right to establish an independent Palestinian state. We are pleased that the PLO's national program, which was adopted during the 16th session of the PNC and which received the broadest Palestinian national and popular support, is our party's program for the national liberation phase.

Moreover, the Palestinian communists have a heritage and a rich experience on which our party draws and depends on in facing the current difficulties. The Palestinian communists, in our occupied land in particular, have a prominent role and broad mass support gained through the sacrifices of our courageous comrades over many decades in their brave resistance against the Israeli occupiers and their fascist practice.

From the time when our party was re-established 3 years ago, we have been depending on this force's mainstays and have been using it in the service and development of our national struggle, in the defense of the PLO's unity, in bolstering its position in the trench of the anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist forces and in the struggle to settle our differences with some Arab liberation forces in a way that serves the interests of the entire Arab liberation movement.

Our party depends on the working class and the toiling masses, who represent the majority of our Palestinian people. The working class stands out in the course of the national struggle as the unifying class by virtue of its interests, despite the dispersion. It has no selfish interests to divert it from the goal that serves the interests of our entire people: the goal of return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

The Palestinian working class and its party have a firm ally who is also an ally of the entire Palestinian people and its legitimate rights. It is the international working class with its communist parties and its offspring, the international socialist system with its vanguard, the Soviet Union. We are proud of this international relationship of ours which we are constantly seeking to develop as a service to our national struggle and our international duty as well.

In this framework, the Soviet Union's initiative, announced in mid-1984 to solve the Middle East crisis, reflects clearly and principally the position of the country of the great Lenin in backing our people's just cause, which it considers it the crux of the struggle and the central issue in the Middle East. All the Palestinian nationalists, in their struggle to guarantee the rights of their people, have depended on and supported this initiative. It is a weapon in the hands of these national forces in confronting the capitulatory solution which the rulers of Washington and Israel, as well as the proponents of Camp David, are seeking to impose on our people.

The alternative to the ideas put forth by the forces conspiring against our people and promoting the Camp David course is adherence to the Soviet proposals and persistence in the struggle for the sake of convening an international conference under the supervision of the United Nations and with the participation of the PLO as an independent and equal party, and for the sake of enforcing the clear UN resolutions which plainly recognize our people's right to return to their homeland, to self-determination and to national independence. Adherence to the Soviet proposals is a national duty at this stage more than any other time in the past.

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CSO: 4404/374

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

PNC HEAD CRITICIZES BIRRI, AMAL MOVEMENT

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Jun 85 pp 22-24

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, chairman of the Palestine National Council, by Yusuf al-Rimawi: "Causes of the 'Amal' Coup: A Shi'ite Canton and Protection of the Enemy's Border; We Bought Weapons for Our Fighters in the Camps from the Black Market"; in Amman, date not specified]

[Text] Ever since the seventh session of the Palestine National Council in Amman, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has emerged as a phenomenon in the Palestinian arena. This is not just because of his unanimous selection as council president but also because of the consensus that this personality, with its distinctive spiritual, political and combative capabilities, may be most able to open the doors of Palestinian national unity on the basis of continued work to realize the hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian people. Ever since Shaykh al-Sa'ih assumed his duties as council president, he has been giving this issue all his time and attention and giving those who come to talk to him the feeling that national unity has become his personal obsession, which is depriving him of his rest and sleep, despite his old age of 80 years.

If this interview had to have a reason, it is the issue of national unity which has once again become the topic of discussion following the combat unity in the war of the camps. This war began with the sudden bloody coup within the Amal Movement, which shifted from the position of ally to the position of adversary, choosing to stand in the same trench as the invading Zionist forces and to aim its guns and those of the official and sectarian forces against the Palestinian people in Lebanon.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih was preparing to leave for Tunis to chair the meetings of the PNC when the war of the camps erupted, or when Amal began carrying out the decision of those who motivate it to finish what the invading Zionist forces could not achieve: to attack the camps and remove all manifestations of a Palestinian presence in Lebanon. When AL-DUSTUR met with Shaykh al-Sa'ih, he had just returned from Tunis filled with a tremendous anger which one could feel in his eyes when talking.

In this heated interview, the shaykh began his talk by saying:

"We used to consider Birri and his group as Muslims who fear God and as fighters who protect their nation from the tragedies of Zionist injustices.

It has become clear that they are accomplices in the conspiracy to protect Israel, prompting the Palestinian fighters to forget their differences and stand united to repel the aggression and defend themselves. They sprouted in the field of struggle to prove to the world that the Palestinian people are not intimidated by the conspiring forces and are not deterred from fighting against overwhelming weaponry. Those heroes earned the esteem of all the noble peoples of the world.

"I do not know what divine religion, positive law or human principle allows the killing of innocent souls and assaults on helpless men, women and children. I direct my words to the conscience of Nabih Birri who belongs to the faction of Imam 'Ali, asking him if Imam 'Ali would approve of his followers taking part in brutal crimes unheard of in ancient and modern history and if he would approve of his followers engineering or collaborating in a conspiracy to wipe out the Palestinian people in order to protect the Zionists, who are the enemies of humanity."

[Question] Sir, were you surprised by the outbreak of the war of the camps?

[Answer] Yes and no. There were numerous indications and telling signs suggesting what could happen. However, despite our awareness of what has gone on in the Lebanese arena, and notwithstanding our realization of the ease in which positions and alliances can shift in this arena, we were not expecting this sudden coup within Amal nor were we anticipating a confrontation with it, this movement which until recently was more than an alliance and greater than a friend. Amal was one of the key national forces in the Lebanese arena. Therefore, no one could have expected or predicted this quick shift from one extreme to another, or from a position of alliance to one of adversary.

[Question] What, in your opinion, are the causes of the coup?

[Answer] So far I do not know exactly what the causes are. However, the brothers in the Palestinian leadership have opinions and information that confirm the existence of a scheme in the Palestinian arena aimed at realizing two objectives. The first objective is to create a Shiite canton similar to the other sectarian cantons already created in Lebanon in preparation, it seems, for a sectarian partition the outlines of which are becoming more evident day by day. The second objective is to extend the boundaries of this canton to the northern borders of occupied Palestine so that the key function of this Shiite canton would be to provide protection to the Zionist entity and prevent military or commando operations against this entity. Current events affirm that the accomplishment of these two related objectives can only be realized through attacks against Palestinian military forces first, followed by the removal of the Palestinian camps from Beirut and the Lebanese south by moving their inhabitants to the north of Lebanon, that is, to Tripoli, as a first step toward the ultimate goal of expelling them from Lebanon.

[Question] Do you not think, your eminence, that such a scheme is too big for Amal? And in this case, what are or who are the forces standing behind Nabih Birri in scheming and carrying out these incidents?

[Answer] Logical analysis of the situation leads to one conclusion, which is that the same sides which stand to gain from this scheme are the same ones which planned it and are working for its implementation. It is no longer a secret that Israel is not the only one which stands to benefit from the extermination of the Palestinians. There are Arab sides which would like to remove the Palestinian "obstacle," a fact known to everyone and unequivocally underscored by recent events.

[Question] Sir, you were in Tunis chairing the meetings of the Central Council while the battles of the camps were at their worst. What happened in these meetings regarding this war?

[Answer] The Central Council's agenda, which was drawn up prior to the recent events, included five main points, one of which was the situation in Lebanon, in addition to the Palestinian political initiative during the post-PNC's 17th session phase, the status of the people in the occupied homeland, Palestinian national unity and the status of Palestinians in the Arab world.

But the matter of the war of the camps overshadowed all the Central Council debates in Tunis and took first priority in four full sessions during which we reviewed all the details and steps that must be adopted to face the council.

[Question] What were the most notable results you arrived at?

[Answer] The truth is that the rapid succession of events forced us to give first priority to the arming of our fighters and people in Lebanon. It is known that the sources of arms and supplies had almost dried up. Therefore, the only thing we (the Central Council and Executive Committee) could do was to reach a unanimous decision to buy arms and materiel from any source and at any price, and this is what happened. Arms were bought from the black market in Lebanon at many times the ordinary price. Mr Yasir 'Arafat said during the debates that the bullet that cost 50 Lebanese piasters in ordinary times was purchased at 400 piasters during the war of the camps. The same things goes for other arms, ammunition and combat requirements.

In addition, the Central Council was able to define a final fixed stance toward what is happening, which was announced in a separate communique containing the following six points:

First, the PLO has the right to defend the Palestinian presence everywhere.

Second, the PLO has the right to organize the Palestinian masses tactically and politically wherever they may be found.

Third, the communique underscores the fact that the concept of national commitment is a commitment to enable the PLO to fulfill its duties and responsibilities toward its people.

Fourth, it underscores the fact that the present scheme is one being carried out by the Syrian regime to fulfill the objectives which the Zionist invasion failed to accomplish in implementating the arrangements agreed upon with the American envoy, Richard Murphy, which included a plan to settle the Palestinians far away from the areas of confrontation.

Fifth, the council rejects the attempts to evacuate the Palestinian people from Lebanon and firmly rejects the plot of sectarian separation which it pledges to resist.

Sixth, the council affirms its desire to preserve Lebanon's unity and sovereignty and believes that the camps are an integral part of Lebanese national security.

[Question] Were the Arab reactions to the war of the camps equal to the events? And did you perceive a serious Arab initiative to stop the massacre of the Palestinian Arab people?

[Answer] Unfortunately, Arab reactions were many and varied, but did not go beyond the realm of words and some visits and contacts undertaken by an Arab official here and there. This is the nature of any fragmented nation suffering from dispersion and ruin.

[Question] It was noted that the Libyan reaction included a shift of position toward the PLO and the person of Mr Yasir 'Arafat. How important do you think this is?

[Answer] We support any step in the right direction taken by any Arab state. The Libyan stance was a subject of discussion within the Central Council. Moreover, brother Abu Iyad contacted Qadhdhafi to thank him for his statements, as did brother Hakam Bal'adi, the PLO representative in Tunis, and Yasir 'Arafat himself at one of his press conferences. I personally thanked Col Qadhdhafi and expressed my hope that the Libyan stance will continue in the same direction. Some brothers suggested that I visit Libya personally at the head of an official delegation, but debate on this visit ended in an agreement to postpone it until we become acquainted with the dimensions of the new Libyan stance.

[Question] Do you not believe, your eminence, that the combat unity achieved among the Palestinian factions inside the camps is a fit approach for regaining Palestinian unity?

[Answer] The realization of this unity was the most important and prominent result of the battles. We discussed this phenomenon in depth and at length in the Central Council, after which we directed a series of communiques and calls to the various faction leaders, asking them to use this opportunity to reunite the Palestinian ranks and urging them to learn from our past experiences which have taught us that the only way out for the Palestinians is their unity and cohesion within the framework of the PLO. We do not discount, indeed, we sincerely hope, that the Palestinian leaders have realized, following such destruction, suffering and homelessness, that their only escape is national unity, the unity of will, rifles and goals.

[Question] Before and after the war of the camps, what were the steps adopted in this direction, especially since everyone is placing great hopes in you in this regard?

[Answer] We do not let any opportunity pass without contacting others in the various factions and Arab leaderships, calling with all we have for such a unity. In this regard I recall that during the 15th session of the Arab Parliamentary Federation held in Aden late last February, we perceived in many positions everyone's desire to preserve Palestinian national unity and their constant calls for it. I met with the president of Democratic Yemen, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, who told me: "Everyone trusts you and depends on you. I ask you to do all you can to regain the unity of the Palestinian people." I found in these words an occasion to make a remark to President 'Ali Nasir concerning the speech he delivered in the parliamentary federation's meetings in which he objected to the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. And although I replied to him in a speech during the federation's meetings, I saw in my bilateral meeting with him another opportunity to reply, so I said: "I was hoping you would assist me in realizing Palestinian national unity and would refrain from saying what you said about the Amman accord before hearing the other point of view." After that, I met with Mr 'Ali 'Antar, the Yemeni vice president, to notify him of the Palestinian delegation's objection to President 'Ali Nasir's speech. Mr 'Antar expressed his understanding of the situation after I presented to him the details of the Palestinian-Jordanian accord, reassuring me that he became convinced that the agreement did not contain any concessions of Palestinian rights.

At this same meeting, I met with the president of the Syrian People's Assembly, Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and we discussed at length the current situations, particularly those pertaining to the Amman accord.

Mr al-Zu'bi's viewpoint was so close to ours that, at the conclusion of the meeting, we pledged, with Mr 'Akif al-Fayiz, the president of the Jordanian parliament, to work, under the inspiration of these climates of understanding, toward the goal of regaining Palestinian national unity.

[Question] Is it possible, within this framework, that you may visit Syria soon?

[Answer] The Arab Parliamentary Federation is scheduled to meet in Damascus next July. There is an agreement to invite me to attend this meeting in the Syrian capital. I heard from brother 'Ali al-Salami, president of the parliamentary division in Democratic Yemen and president of the federation for the current session, that Syria had no objection to my attendance. There is no dispute that the invitation will be addressed to me and not anyone else from the Palestinian side, meaning that Mr Khalid al-Fahhum, whom Syria still considers as the president of the PNC, will not be invited. If this visit to Syria comes true, I hope it will be a useful occasion within the framework of our endeavors to advance one more step toward Palestinian national unity.

[Question] You are optimistic then that national unity is closer now than in the past, or closer than it has ever been during and following the convocation of the PNC in Amman?

[Answer] We never lost hope in the possibility and, indeed, in the inevitability of the Palestinian people reuniting. We believe that there are many suitable circumstances nowadays that render the realization of such a goal possible. However, this of course can only be achieved through a collective endeavor, not only by the Palestinians alone but by all the Arabs, leaders, peoples and governments as well.

[Question] The Jordanian accord is still the subject of great controversy. Was this accord discussed in the Tunis meetings, or what tendencies prevailed during the discussions?

[Answer] Certainly there was an extended debate on this subject due to its importance first and due to the fact that the Central Council's meetings were the first to be held since the 17th session of the PNC. The council heard detailed reports by Mr Yasir 'Arafat and the members of the Executive Committee concerning the Palestinian political initiative in general and the Jordanian-Palestinian accord in particular. The debates resulted in the council's approval of the accord in conformity with the commitment to the firm principles established by successive PNCs and contained in the Executive Committee's communique of 18 March 1985. The Central Council urged the Executive Committee and Mr 'Arafat to keep up the political initiative to realize the goals of the Palestinian people and to regain their national rights.

[Question] Were there any objections within the Central Council to the Amman accord?

[Answer] Yes, but they were extremely limited. Those who objected numbered no more than 5 members from among the 57 members who attended the conference (the number of Central Council members is 70). The essence of their objection was their apprehension about the matter of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. They view the formation of such a delegation as stripping the PLO, in a way, of its right to represent the Palestinians. They also fear other concessions. The debates that took place, however, demonstrated that there is no place for such fears for there is complete agreement that the PLO will not enter into direct negotiations with Israel and will not recognize Resolution 242.

[Question] But has Mr Yasir 'Arafat had things to say about this resolution?

[Answer] Abu 'Ammar's statements in this regard underscores the soundness of the Palestinian position. He asks the U.S. to recognize the Palestinian's right to self-determination as a precondition for the PLO's recognition of this resolution. This condition strips Resolution 242 of its negative aspect, which does not recognize the Palestinian problem as one pertaining to the existence of an independent political land, not a problem of refugees. We believe that acceptance of this condition, if accepted, is enough to dispel all the fears expressed by the brothers.

[Question] There is much talk about the joint delegation. How can one put an end to all the speculation around this subject?

[Answer] The truth is that everything happening in this regard is mere speculation and prediction, as you said, or attempts at anticipating events. It has been established, however, that the Palestinian side of the joint delegation must be selected by the PLO and must include members from the executive committee. Those who talk about forming the delegation mention many names who are on the PNC and executive committee personalities such as Muhammad Milhim and Archbishop al-Yakhuri.

[Question] Your name was mentioned more than once in the Arab and foreign press as one who will participate in or head this delegation!

[Answer] I have heard and have read about this subject. Some American politicians, including Dean Fisher, a political adviser to former president Carter and currently chairman of the board of the TIME company have contacted me. Fisher came to my office here in the parliament building in Amman to ask me about the possibility of my heading the Palestinian side of the joint delegation. I told him that if the delegation were required to negotiate with Israel directly, it would be impossible, not only with regard to me but also with regard to any other official. If the intent, however, were to negotiate within the framework of an international conference, it would be more proper to have 'Arafat himself head the delegation. When I presented the matter in this way, I found the American politician telling me literally: "I beg your eminence to accept the chairmanship of the Palestinian delegation." At any rate, we in the PLO are committed to firm principles which we will not abandon, most important of which is our refusal to negotiate directly with Israel in any shape or form and to sit with any Israeli delegation outside the umbrella of the international conference on which we insist.

[Question] One last question, sir, about the status of the people in the occupied territory. What can we tell our readers about their conditions under the present difficult circumstances?

[Answer] We discussed this topic in detail in the Central Council meetings in Tunis where brother Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the occupied land affairs department, submitted detailed studies, supported with facts and figures, about the suffering of our steadfast land under the loathsome occupation, particularly since the differences within the Palestinian national action unfortunately reflected negatively on these conditions. Furthermore, there is a huge deficit in the budget of the joint committee for steadfastness support. Suffice it to know that this year's appropriations do not exceed 29 million Jordanian dinars for 1985, although in past years they were as high as 70 million dinars or more. This is primarily due to the failure of many Arab parties to honor their financial commitments. We tried to deal with this matter by sending an official delegation to these countries to urge them to honor their commitments to enable our people there to continue their struggle and to hold on to the land through the Palestinian identity. And here we are waiting.

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

INTERVIEW WITH KHALIL AL-WAZIR

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Jun 85 pp 8-11

[Interview with Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, by Yusuf al-Rimawi: "The Victor of the War in the Camps Lost; The Decision Made by Amal Executed an Agreement between al-Asad and Murphy;" in Amman; date not specified]

[Text] "The incidents that happened in the camps spared us the effort of having to persuade those who were unconvinced that the aim of the conspiracy was to reconsider the existence of all Palestinians and not to correct 'Arafat's method'."

"Many Shi'ites denounced the attacks on the camps."

"What the Syrian regime did to us in Lebanon will also be done to Palestinians in Syria."

Mr Khalil al-Wazir is known to be one of the most outstanding Palestinians for his military and political capabilities. Besides being deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolutionary Forces and a fighter who led and planned a series of battles that were fought by the Palestinian people during the past two decades, he is also an experienced politician capable of conducting incisive and perceptive analyses of the facts in a manner that can project the future and place details and ephemeral daily events in their proper and broader strategic framework.

In this interview that AL-DUSTUR conducted with him in Amman, Abu Jihad offers what may be the most comprehensive and the most profound political and military analysis of the battles which the Palestinian people are fighting today to defend their right to bear arms and to exist. In this analysis Abu Jihad reveals new versions of the old plans that have targeted the rights of Palestinians to bear arms and to exist.

[Question] Now that the war in the camps is almost over, what do you think are its most salient political and military consequences? Do you think that, on the whole, the presence of Palestinians in Lebanon, but particularly the presence of armed Palestinians, is threatened now more than it was in the past? How far can this threat go?

[Answer] The attacks that are taking place against Palestinian camps in Lebanon are grave. The gravest thing about them is that they are being waged by former allies, people whose political positions and presence in the population we've always defended. We've always been on their side in their opposition to the Zionist occupation of south Lebanon.

No one would have believed that such a failure of ideology, nationalism and morals was possible. No one would have believed that the Amal Movement could pursue such an aggressive course in attacking Palestinians, "the people who have really been deprived of their homeland," as Imam Musa al-Sadr used to describe them. Along with Lebanese army forces, Amal forced on the Palestinians in their camps a war that our people did not choose and a war they did not want to fight. But they took a stance to defend their right to exist and to bear arms. It is regrettable that Amal should come now and repeat what Israel and the Phalangists did in Sabra and Shatila. It is regrettable that Amal should repeat the crime that Lebanese Forces committed in Tall al-Za'tar and repeat those actions that Syrian troops carried out to support their agents in al-Barid and al-Badawi camps. The attack became more brutal, but attackers from Amal and the Lebanese army or those who were working with the Syrian regime failed in all the attempts and plans they made to find an honorable solution to preserve the safety of those people who have been unjustly treated. They failed to preserve Lebanon's safety and prevent more division and fragmentation from taking place on Lebanese territory. The most notable political outcome of this battle is that fragmentation which is prevalent in Lebanon's divided condition and is fanning the fires of the conflict. This is a battle in which even the victor loses.

But regardless of its military consequences, it is a fact that there are people who cannot be swayed by massacres and aggression and who cannot be made to bear malice and hatred in their hearts. The Amal Movement will not succeed where others before it have failed. And that includes Israel's aggression from June 1982 till June 1985, and it also includes Phalangist and Syrian acts of aggression in 1976 and 1983. There is no doubt that condemnations and denunciations of Amal from Shi'ites, from the Lebanese, and from Arab and international circles are among the signs and consequences of that failure.

[Question] What were the preliminaries and circumstances that caused the Amal Movement to wage its war against Palestinian camps? Do you believe there is a new regional or international plan that made launching such a war necessary? What are the characteristics of that plan? What are its ultimate objectives? And who are the parties to it?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the decision that was made by some Amal leaders was not just a local or domestic decision. That decision was dictated by several international and regional considerations. But instead of opposing it, we found some Amal leaders supporting that decision, even though they will become the targets of that decision's next steps in the near or distant future.

We all remember the goals and points that Begin's government defined when it waged its aggressive war in June 1982. That government announced that its aim was not Lebanon or Syria's presence in that country. Begin's government wanted to deal a blow to the PLO's infrastructure, and it wanted to drive PLO leaders

out of Beirut. It was very unfortunate that some of our fellow Arabs and fellow Lebanese believed these allegations and did not fire on the invading army of occupation. That was the case for the first few days of the war. But then the situation changed: the conquering troops began shelling Lebanese areas and villages, and they set a siege around Beirut, the capital. The occupation forces also advanced on land to a point that was only 24 kilometers from the Syrian capital. Finally, Zionist airplanes struck Syrian positions with missile batteries. But in spite of that the Syrians took no action. Instead of reacting and declaring war to defend themselves against Israel's attack and against the tanks that were threatening Damascus itself, the Syrian president received U.S. envoy Robert McFarlane who traveled to Syria with Philip Habib on 12 June during the invasion. President al-Asad made a secret deal with McFarlane consisting of five points and providing for the following:

First, efforts were to be made to prevent a war between Syria and Israel from breaking out.

Second, Syria was not to join the fighting to support the Palestinians and Lebanese who were fighting in south Lebanon, in Mount Lebanon and in Beirut.

Third, the appropriate climate was to be provided to drive the PLO out of the Lebanese capital.

Fourth, efforts were to be made to prevent the PLO from returning to Beirut and Lebanese territory. Attempts were to be made to drive the PLO out of the Lebanese equation once and for all and out of the Arab-Israeli conflict as well.

Fifth, a special, distinctive role was to be given to Syria in Lebanon, and Syria's security and political interests in that country were to be safeguarded.

The PLO was driven out of Beirut on the basis of that agreement; divisiveness was created within the organization; and it was driven out of al-Biq'a' and out of Tripoli in the summer and fall of 1983. What happened, however, did not square with what al-Asad and McFarlane had counted on. This is because the Zionist occupation of some sections of Lebanon created a new armed resistance, which turned out to be the product of the blood ties, weapons and common destiny that the Lebanese and Palestinians have in common. And thus, as al-Asad and McFarlane counted on driving out one resistance, a new resistance was being born: that resistance reflected the unity of Lebanese and Palestinian objectives.

To confront such a new resistance, a new agreement between Washington and Damascus had to be reached. Richard Murphy went to Syria to finish what McFarlane and Habib had started. A new deal was struck and that deal provided for the northern borders of the Israeli enemy to be safeguarded. The Lebanese and Palestinian peoples were to be disarmed, and Syrian troops were to return to the positions they had held before the 1982 war. That was a political guarantee against the resistance resuming its activities against Israel after Israel completes its troop withdrawal from Lebanon in June 1985.

Thus, the battles, massacres, oppression and harassment that we are seeing today do not constitute a mere decision that was made by a few Amal leaders. They

rather manifest the implementation of the new agreement between Murphy and al-Asad. Accordingly, what is happening is the inevitable result of a U.S. sponsored, indirect regional accord between Israel and the Syrian regime. Anyone who has been following the events can see that that is what is currently happening.

[Question] The Lebanese army and the Phalangists did take part in some of the stages of the war in the camps. The Socialist Progressive Party remained somewhat neutral. How do you see the future of your relations with political and military forces in Lebanon?

[Answer] Recent battles in Beirut have shown that plans are not carved in stone and that the equation is always changing. On the basis of what was clearly a regional and international decision a few Amal leaders launched a war against the camps. That war was based on certain plans and on an idea for a local equation that some people thought would be final. The facts, however, showed that these plans were neither constant nor permanent. We all know that the attack on the camps was launched on the basis of the following idea:

First, it was thought that the camps were so weak, they would not be able to withstand such an attack for more than 48 hours.

Second, it was thought that Lebanese support for Palestinians was almost nil, and Amal's Lebanese allies would support the movement without reservations.

Third, some people thought that the division among Palestinians was so strong that most camp residents would side with the attackers and not with the defenders. It was thought that Syria's Palestinian allies would support the massacres that were being carried out against their own people.

Fourth, it was thought that Syria's Arab allies, or those who side with Syria on regional matters, would do nothing about the massacre of those who were fighting for liberation.

It was on the basis of that idea that the decision to attack was made; the attack was scheduled to take place 3 weeks before Israel's third troop withdrawal from Lebanon. But the dynamic equation produced the opposite of what some Amal leaders and those who were backing them in the region and internationally had expected. Now, more than 3 weeks after the battles, we find that this is what happened:

First, the camps are not as weak as they were thought to be. The events showed that the "elimination process" which some thought would require no more than 48 hours required more than 48 days.

Second, Lebanese support was not non-existent. In fact, events affirmed that in times of crisis and at pivotal points in life, one does find people who will have nothing to do with the destruction of the Palestinian cause. This has been affirmed by the positions taken by many Islamic and national forces in Lebanon. And even among our fellow Shi'ites, many stood up and declared their rejection and denunciation of Amal's attack on the Palestinian people. In fact, in

speeches delivered in mosques, some Shi'ites described Amal's attack on the Palestinians as action that serves the United States and Israel.

Third, the contrived division within the ranks of the Palestinian people and inside the camps did not grow significantly in the presence of those incidents and rapidly developing events. The target here was not a particular Palestinian or a particular tendency. The target here was the very existence of all Palestinians: men, women, old people and children. What the Damascus regime did to the PLO is beginning to happen to those who have been considered agents for Damascus, where the regime has targeted everything Palestinian: the PLO or the Palestinians' organizations, their politics or existence, their people or their camps, and their weapons or capabilities. Anyone who has not yet realized that fact will soon be rudely awakened by coming events.

Fourth, Syria's Arab allies, or those who agree with it in the region on a few political points, were not willing to go along with Syria in disarming the Palestinians and dealing a blow to their civilian presence and very existence in Lebanon. Suffice it to mention in this regard the statements and positions that were issued by parties close to Damascus. These positions helped expose the Syrian decision and stripped it of its Arab and Islamic cover. Also the Arab League meeting in Tunisia made the Syrian regime's marked isolation quite clear after the criminal attack on the camps had exposed it almost completely. Then, in light of what became evident, events did not occur as those who had planned the conspiracy had assumed they would. In fact, it may be said that these battles changed many plans. Along with the heroic steadfastness of the Palestinian people, these battles may cause the tables to be turned on those who signed the new Murphy plan. Therefore, no one can rule out changes in political alliances, not only among the Palestinians and Lebanese, but also among the Arabs and in the region as well.

[Question] The Palestinians have insisted on their right to provide their own security in the camps, but Amal and the Lebanese government, supported by Syria, have rejected that right. Do you think there is some kind of formula by means of which Palestinians can provide their own protection? How can that be done?

[Answer] There are several formulas that could have been considered before this destructive war was launched. Most recently, for example, there was that formula that was proposed by Dr Salim al-Huss. He proposed a plan for a general solution that would deal with the problem of weapons in its entirety, not just part of it. The confusion that happened was the result of a few Amal leaders, prompted by regional and international pressures, insisting on disarming the camps and leaving the Palestinian people unarmed and frightened in [what seemed like] a jungle of Israeli and Phalangist weapons.

It was that unrealistic and irrational insistence on disarming Palestinians that was behind the outbreak of the war in the camps. If the matter had been dealt with in the context of a general political solution to disarm all the parties, especially the Phalangists, the Guards of the Cedars, the Lebanese Forces, the army of South Lebanon and Israel's agents, events would have taken another course. But the matter had been turned around. Instead of disarming Israel's agents first, Syria wanted to disarm the Palestinians. It wanted to disarm those people who were fighting the enemy, even as agents were still carrying their

medium and heavy weapons. This is what Dr Salim al-Huss wanted to say in the statement he made. Dr al-Huss said that if such a decision to disarm had to be made, then everyone had to be disarmed. But separating the question of the camps from that of Lebanon; separating the question of Lebanon from that of Palestine; and then separating the question of Palestine from that of the Arab and Islamic region would be totally unacceptable not only to us, but also to every rational and honest person. Furthermore, there is a basic and fundamental difference between armed Palestinians who are fighting the Zionist enemy and armed agents whose guns are aimed at Palestinian rights in the battle with Israel. This is the difference that most Arab summit conferences have noted; these are the conferences that gave the Palestinian people the freedom to bear arms and to use force in liberating their land which was taken from them by force.

[Question] What has the relationship between the Palestinian Revolution and Amal been like since the early beginnings of that movement?

[Answer] We had much in common with Amal, but we also disagreed with that movement on a few points. This is what happens under all circumstances and in most alliances and friendships. But our relationship with Amal was more of an alliance in most stages of that relationship, despite the clashes and disputes that did occur occasionally, especially at crucial points in our lives. This is because we in Fatah have a strategic outlook that is different from the one the people in Amal have. People in Amal always look at political issues from a narrow and limited Lebanese and sectarian perspective. Our movement, however, looks at matters from Arab, pan-Arab and Palestinian perspectives. The Lebanese perspective is also an important part of our considerations, but it is not the only or the total one. I believe that such differences in points of view are quite common; they are not restricted to us. However, there are a few local, regional and international parties that took advantage of these differences and used them to carry out other plans and objectives that are ultimately not in the interests of the Amal Movement nor in the interests of our fellow Shi'ites; they are most certainly not in the interests of south Lebanon.

[Question] While the war in the camps was going on, Palestinian fighters from all factions worked as one combat unit, overlooking political and organizational disputes. That created hope for the long awaited, comprehensive political and organizational unity among Palestinians. Do you think that the climate is suitable for that now?

[Answer] Events have confirmed the misconceptions under which those who claim to oppose the PLO's program are laboring. The events have confirmed that it is not only the leader of the organization that is being pursued, but also its right to bear arms. Driving the PLO out of the equation of the Arab-Zionist conflict so as to bring in another Palestinian party is not what is being sought here. What is being sought here is the elimination of Palestinian representation altogether. It may be said, after what has happened and what is happening, that the conspiracy has changed: it no longer involves considering the legitimacy and unity of the PLO as the political and national representative of the Palestinian people, but it does involve reconsidering the legitimacy of Palestinian existence as well as the rights of Palestinian people to return to their homeland.

Based on that understanding of the Zionist enemy's strategy and the strategy of

those who agree with the enemy, we hope that those who came to believe themselves to be alternatives to the PLO would reconsider their position. Everything would fall into place after that. No doors have been shut, and anyone who wants to may still join the revolutionary course and the course of the armed Palestinian struggle against the Zionist enemy and against those who are directly or indirectly carrying out that enemy's strategy.

[Question] What do you think is the secret of the Palestinian fighters' steadfastness in the camps, despite the significant difference in powers between the two parties who are involved in combat?

[Answer] The secret is that we have a case, and right is on our side. The secret also lies in Palestinian weapons. Finally, the secret lies in the fact that we are the ones who are being attacked; we are the victims of aggression and injustice.

[Question] In light of statements made by George Habash and other leaders of the Rescue Front, do you believe that the honeymoon between Syria and factions of that front is over?

[Answer] We believe that the honeymoon is almost over. Those who experienced that honeymoon for a few months are now experiencing the bitterness that we too did experience repeatedly. With regard to what Syria's reaction will be, this is something that we have been watching and observing; we have been waiting for the political outcome of that honeymoon. Information and news have been received about wholesale arrests that are being carried out by the Damascus regime in areas where Palestinians can be found and in surrounding areas in Syria. These arrests followed the demonstrations that were held to oppose the massacres that are taking place in the Beirut camps. Time will tell what the reaction of the so-called National Rescue Front will be. As far as we are concerned, we believe that the injustice which the Syrian regime has inflicted upon us in Lebanon will also be inflicted on our people in Syria, both inside and outside the camps. But we did not allow matters to run that course which had been set by al-Asad, McFarlane and Murphy.

[Question] Although the leaders of the PLO were thousands of miles away from the battle, they served as a military and political buffer throughout the battles in the camps. How were you able to do that? Do you agree with what some media agencies are saying? They are saying that the war in the camps proved that the PLO did not leave Beirut after the Israeli invasion.

[Answer] That matter can be seen from two perspectives.

First, a conspiracy is a conspiracy. In the past, the fact that the organization's leaders were in Beirut was used as an excuse to justify Israel's aggression and Syria's silence about attacks on armed Palestinians. Then the same excuse was used again to justify the battles of al-Biqa' and Tripoli. Now, however, that excuse cannot be used since PLO leaders are no longer in Beirut. Consequently, there was no justification for that destructive attack on the camps. Despite that, however, the conspirators were not ashamed to say that children, women, old men and young people were being slaughtered to correct 'Arafat's method of running the PLO. But it is the first agreement between

al-Asad, Mofarlane and Habib as well as the second agreement between al-Asad and Murphy that can account for what happened yesterday, what is happening today, and what may happen tomorrow.

So much for the first perspective. Second, the steadfastness of the camps stems from a Palestinian national resolve that draws its strength from the fact that Palestinians have a legitimate right to bear arms. It is our right to continue fighting against the Zionist enemy. It is that right and that legitimacy that have helped provide sufficient ability, giving the organization's leaders ongoing momentum to manage operations for defending the camps from their positions outside those camps.

When we look at this matter from these two perspectives, we notice that Israel's plan to eliminate the organization and deal a blow to Palestinian presence in Lebanon during its attack on Lebanon in June 1982 failed. We believe that what happened with Israel's aggression will also happen with the new and old Syrian-American aggression.

[Question] Among Arab reactions to the war it was noted that Libya's attitude toward the organization and toward Mr Yasir 'Arafat himself changed. Do you believe that that change is serious? How do you explain it, and how important is it to you?

[Answer] We are calmly watching all reactions. We are also evaluating all new attitudes toward the conspiracy whose aim is to eliminate civilian and armed Palestinian presence and, eventually, undermine the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. I would be divulging no secret if I were to tell you that such new attitudes have spared us the trouble of persuading those who are not yet convinced that what is happening in Lebanon is not happening by accident and that its aim is not to correct 'Arafat's style, as reactionary propaganda and Syrian spokesmen try to claim, but that it is rather a major, serious conspiracy whose aim is to reconsider the whole question of Palestinian existence in Lebanon. The aim of that conspiracy is to scatter and disperse the Palestinians all over again in some Arab countries, as former U.S. secretary of state, Henry Kissinger had said repeatedly. This is what those who were supposed to be on our side are trying to do now with the gun. Therefore, we appreciate all positive positions, even if they come late. We hope that Palestinian blood which has been shed on Arab land will help formulate a new awareness that will alter the equation and restore justice.

Our people have suffered a great deal, and their blood has been shed everywhere at every crucial pivotal point in politics and history. I believe that the time has come for Arabs to acknowledge the Palestinians' right to bear arms because Palestinians did bear arms in the first place not only to defend Palestinian rights, but also to defend Arab honor and oppose the enemy of the entire Arab nation.

8592

CSO: 4404/375

SAUDI ARABIA

SAUDI INTERIOR MINISTRY STATEMENT ON PILGRIMAGE

GF291040 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0830 GMT 29 Jun 85

[Text] Riyadh, 29 June (SPA)--The general directorate of passports at the Ministry of Interior has issued a statement calling on the brother residents who preformed pilgrimage last year or the years before not to perform pilgrimage again to enable pilgrims coming from abroad to perform their pilgrimage smoothly and easily.

Following is the text of the statement:

The general directorate of passports at the ministry of interior announces to all the residents in the kingdom that it has been noticed during the past years that pilgrims overcrowded the hold places during the pilgrimage rituals. This overcrowding was due to the fact that many residents performed this ritual more than once. This deprived those who came from abroad--and who made tiring journeys until they reached the holy places--of the opportunity of performing their pilgrimage smoothly and easily due to the overcrowding during the circumambulation [around the ka'bah] and in the other holy places. This prevented the elderly, the weak, and the lame from fully performing their pilgrimage.

Therefore, the general directorate of passports calls on brother residents who performed pilgrimage last year or the years before not to do this again. The ministry of interior has initiated rules to regulate the procedure for pilgrimage by those residents who have not performed it either before their coming to work in Saudi Arabia or during their work in it and who intend to carry out this ritual. The ministry of interior has conveyed these rules to the general directorate of passports and all its offices in all areas. The new system is summarized as follows:

1. A resident who intends to perform pilgrimage, be he working for government organs or for private companies and firms or for individuals, should apply to the party he is working for. This resident should not be among those who performed this ritual during the past 5 years.
2. These parties will collect information on this resident indicating the following:

- a. Name, nationality, passport number and date of issue, and profession.
 - b. Number of residence permit and place and date of its issue.
 - c. The period which the resident has spent in the kingdom and the date of his last pilgrimage.
3. This information will be attached to the residence permit book and passports of those intending to perform pilgrimage. They should be handed over to the passports office nearest to the pilgrimage applicant during the period between 2/11/1405 and 15/11/1405 A.H. [from 22 June until around 2 August 1985].
 4. The passports directorate will give the pilgrimage applicant a license enabling him to pass through passport centers set up on the roads leading to the holy places.
 5. The passport offices will exclude anyone not meeting these conditions. The control centers on the roads will return anyone not carrying this license.

We are sure that all will be responsive to this to serve the general good which men of authority are seeking. It is God who grants success.

CSO: 4400/185

25 July 1985

SAUDI ARABIA

BRIEFS

SAUDI NAVY FRIGATE--His Majesty's ship "Al-Madinah" arrived at King Faysal Naval Base in the western region from Toulon in France today under the command of a crew of officers and men from the Royal Saudi Naval Forces who completed their training on this ship in France. The commander of King Faysal Base pointed out that this ship is the first frigate to arrive in the kingdom under the "Ship-mast" project under the command of Saudi officers and men who have completed their training in France in the most modern scientific technology. His Majesty's ship "Al-Madinah" is an important addition to the Royal Saudi Naval Forces, and comes from the officials' desire to supply this important organ with the most modern weaponry that technology has to offer. [Text] [Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Jul 85 GF]

CSO: 4400/187

SYRIA

DAMASCUS ON AQABA SUMMIT DISCUSSION

JN051438 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Jul 85

/Station commentary/

/Text/ The enhancement of the ties between the two Camp David regimes in Cairo and Amman can only be compared to the enhancement of the U.S. spirit of hostility to the Arab nation. The two regimes have met eight times in less than a year. These were not chance meetings. The recent Aqaba meeting was made inevitable by the arrangements that were prepared for these regimes during their visits to Washington.

That this meeting should take place while the United States and Jordan were holding joint maneuvers proves not only the deep relations between Washington and these two regimes, but also the long way that U.S. efforts have gone toward establishing an alternative alliance to the Baghdad pact and an alliance whose partners will be the rulers of the Arab regimes that are ready for negotiations with Israel. Therefore, now that the United States has become a direct partner of the renegade regimes of Cairo, Amman and Baghdad in their aspirations to undermine all the Arab walls confronting the comprehensive U.S. plot, the United States has succeeded in reassuring Israel about the future of its Arab relations.

The Aqaba meeting, which does not go beyond the framework that was drawn for the two regimes within the links of the present phase, was held after a series of Egyptian-Israeli consultations, after the Jordanian regime received Shim'on Peres' letter, and after the collapse of the 'Arafatist plan of sedition in Beirut. Therefore, the Aqaba summit is only an inevitable result of the failure of the preliminary stages of the plot that was aimed at striking at Syria's soft spot in Lebanon and that was intended to hide the victories over the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon. The plotters wanted to transform these victories into defeats by driving a wedge between the sons of the same trench from the Lebanese and Palestinian people.

As it was held after a series of both covert and overt agreements between Baghdad and Cairo, we do not think that the Aqaba summit dealt with any issues other than the means of coordinating steps to establish the region security alliance--an alliance which was prompted by the victory over the Zionist invaders of southern Lebanon. Amid all these dubious contacts, the Arab capitals of darkness launched

propaganda campaigns against Syria. This is because these capitals are convinced that the U.S. arrangements are impossible to carry out as long as Syria is able to do battle with the U.S. plot; freeze some of its phases; or destroy some of its links, such as the 17 May agreement and the 'Arafatist sedition in Beirut.

Despite all this responsiveness from the partners of the new U.S. alliance, the United States is still demanding Jordanian and 'Arafatist concessions that would save Israel from its economic, political and social crises and impasses. This could be done by opening the /Jordan/ River's birdges as part of a comprehensive, unconditional reconciliation with Israel. The truth about these U.S. demands can be discerned through the refusal of President Reagan's administration either to receive the Jordanian-'Arafatist delegation or to hold dialogue with the 'Arafatist side before it concedes the Palestinian rights by amending the PLO national charter and transforming the West Bank and Gaza Strip into a document of distributing shares between the Jordanian and Zionist regimes and a joint autonomous administration, in accordance with the Israeli concept of the Camp David agreements. /Sentence as heard/

We cannot deny that the Jordanian and Egyptian regimes discussed the U.S. Administration's credibility after it turned a cold shoulder to the /word indistinct/. Everyone in the Arab /word indistinct/ that the U.S.-Jordanian maneuvers were a subject of discussion at Aqaba, as it is one of the most prominent manifestations of responsiveness toward the new and endless U.S. demands. And since the Jordanian and Egyptian regimes have joined a new alliance that serves NATO's imperialist, strategic aims, they must be /word indistinct/ convinced that implementing U.S. conditions and demands is a better means of paving the way for direct Jordanian-Israeli negotiations. Therefore, the Aqaba summit was not held to answer the U.S. refusal to receive the joint Jordanian-'Arafatist delegation, but to discuss the means of implementing the U.S. terms so that it might accept the joint delegation and save face for those who are running after its mirage.

Now that the alliance between the Arab reactionaries and the United States has become an established development in the Middle East, an Arab insistence to destroy the new Baghdad Pact and foil the U.S. conspiratorial schemes has emerged. This would be done by strengthening the Arab stand of struggle as a prelude to waging the battle to reverse the results /the alliance has achieved/ and make the Arab decision the dominating one in the region.

CSO: 4400/195

SYRIA

TISHRIN HAILS AL-ASAD'S VISIT TO USSR

JN221217 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 22 Jun 85

/Press review/

/Text/ Commenting in its editorial on President al-Asad's historic visit to the USSR, TISHRIN says: Whenever leader Al-Asad visits the USSR, he pushes Syrian-USSR relations to a more developed, qualitative phase. So, we can confidently say that President al-Asad's current visit and talks with President Gorbachev have established firm, objective foundations for more developed and comprehensive relations as part of the strategy of common struggle relations between Syria and the USSR.

If the importance of the visit is to be assessed by its results, its common stands and opinions, as well as the future perspectives that have reached the point of complete agreement on both the means and the objectives and have pinpointed the forms of confrontation in everything that relates to the conflict--Lebanon; the foundations of comprehensive peace; and the U.S.-Jordan-'Arafatist reactionary plan to liquidate the Palestine question, and all the ramifications and applications of this both in Lebanon and elsewhere, especially concerning what has taken place in the camps in Lebanon and 'Arafat's conspiratorial role to hide his betrayal of his cause--then we can definitely say that it was the most successful and fruitful visit. The visit accurately identified all aspects of the plot, considered all possibilities of the U.S.-Jordanian-'Arafatist plan to liquidate the question by beginning the second phase of Camp David, and consequently determined the means of confrontation to foil this plot as well as Syria's role and requirements in defeating this plot and all its symbols in any arena. Despite speculation by imperialist circles and their allies--speculation that is full of deceptive allusions about the visit and its results--we can say that the visit was the most historic and important in terms of Syrian-Soviet relations and the meetings that took place between President al-Asad and the Soviet leaders.

TISHRIN adds: They can rest assured that their bets and illusions are doomed to failure, as were all their previous bets about the objective development of strategic relations between Syria and the USSR, which included all aspects and requirements of the conflict and provided all the military and political requirements that enabled Syria to continue to lead the Arab struggle and to foil every plot against the future of this struggle. Hafiz al-Asad's position the leader of the entire nation's struggle was established this time, just as it has been on every previous visit to the USSR.

When Gorbachev says that the Syrian role is historic in confronting the continuous plot against the Arab struggle--a plot which is now incarnated in the U.S.-Jordanian-'Arafatist move--and that Syrian political accomplishments in the area, particularly in Lebanon, must be followed up until they achieve their full objectives; and when Gorbachev says that Syrian-Soviet relations are now deeper and stronger, as has been proven by tests and experiments, then an analysis of the results of this visit must clearly point out that specific political terms. It should take into consideration the fact that Syria's role and leader Al-Asad's historic stands toward the entire conflict in the area are the central pivot both in governing the Arab struggle against the U.S.-Zionist-Reactionary onslaught and in identifying the terms of the struggle. This means that Hafiz al-Asad, the leader of this nation's struggle, is the one who decides all that relates to the pan-Arab stand concerning the identity of opinions and stands as well as the requirements of implementation that dominated the talks and discussions between the two leaders.

TISHRIN concludes: Once again, do not bet on illusions. You have bet many times before, and have failed on several issues related to the conflict and relations. Your bets failed more than once, and they will fail every time. The bitter truth will shock you. Your bets are no more than wishful thinking with regard to Lebanon and to what took place in the camps, and with regard to the PLO and its unity. The Arab nation and its masses will continue to confide in Syria and its leader, who defeated all bets. Syria will be able to foil the plot. He is powerful and more determined to topple all the symbols of deviation and capitulation in the Arab homeland, the latest of which is the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement with all the symbols and forces facking it and leading its trend. Leader Al-Asad is the one who said and proved that only the Arab decision will prevail, and that time will tell.

CSO: 4400/195

SYRIA

AL-THAWRAH PRAISES SYRIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS

JN230735 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 23 Jun 85

/From the press review/

/Text/ Under the headline "Results of Leader Al-Asad's Visit to Moscow Enhances Arab Masses' Confidence in the Present and Future," AL-THAWRAH says: The timing and results of leader al-Asad's successful visit to the USSR have met all the hopes that the Arab masses have pinned on this visit and produced clearcut answers to all the questions posed. The strong and firmly established Syrian-Soviet relations have become evident by the adoption of a unified and decisive stand on all developments and events currently taking place, foremost of which is confrontation of the U.S.-Israeli-Reactionary defeatist plot to impose capitulatory solutions and separate deals on the Arabs which are currently represented by 'Arafat's move with the Jordanian regime to liquidate the Palestine cause.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The Arab masses see in Syria and its leader, struggler president Hafiz al-Asad the pan-Arab guarantee for their objectives and existence because Syria is directly assuming the burden of confronting the United States and Israel and the reactionary defeatist plots. Through its steadfastness, sacrifices, and support for the Lebanese people and their national resistance, Syria was able to foil the 17 May agreement and defeat the NATO and Israeli invasion forces in Lebanon. By its firm, principled policy and hostile stance against imperialism and Zionism, Syria is capable of foiling the capitulatory plot represented by the 'Arafat-King Husayn camp. Leader al-Asad's visit to the USSR and the results of his talks with Comrade Gorbachev have enhanced the Arab masses' confidence in the present and future and in Syria's ability to act at the appropriate time not only to counter the hostile onslaught but also to provide the necessary conditions and factors for an effective and efficient Arab confrontation that safeguards the pan-Arab cause and provides all the necessary factors to liberate the land, wrest the rights, impose the just peace, and foil capitulatory solutions and separate deals.

CSO: 4400/195

SYRIA

COMMENTARY LAUDS SYRIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS

JN211421 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1125 GMT 21 Jun 85

/Station commentary/

/Text/ The Syrian-Soviet relationship occupies a prominent position in terms of its effect on events in the Middle East and on consolidating the principles and foundations that serve the common objective, that is, confronting all forms of imperialist conspiracies against peace, humanity and justice. This relationship, which has frightened and will continue to frighten all parties revolving in the imperialist orbit, has made the Arab decision stronger than the decision the United States and Israel are trying to impose on the Arab nation. Syria, which controls the decisionmaking in the region, bases its international relations on the firm doctrine to which it adheres and which it protects as well as on the stands that support Arab rights.

Because the USSR adopts a firm stand that supports Arab rights and struggle, and because the USSR is the international force that can confront imperialist schemes alongside world national liberation movements, building a relationship with the USSR on militant foundations is the best way to expand the international ranks that confront U.S. scheme and all plotters, particularly world Zionism.

Syria stands in the first trench in defense of Arab aspirations and objectives, and Syria is confronting and challenging U.S. Zionist plans. Therefore, Syria should build its friendships on strong foundations in order to strengthen this confrontation. These friendships will make the Arabs stronger than the joint imperialist-Zionist decision.

In light of this friendship /with the USSR/, Syria has raised the slogan of strategic balance--the slogan that surprised the United States and Israel and made the Zionist leadership review its calculations and plans which are built on the continuation of aggression. In light of this friendship also, the Arab cause has achieved international support that did not exist before.

Now that the conspiracy has intensified and the United States has publicly declared it as well as the plans it has prepared to impose its tutelage over the region, both friends should hold consultations and coordinate their stands to confront the expanded U.S. plot--a plot supported by Arab parties that are known for their loyalty to the U.S. plans and for their response to all plans prepared by the Pentagon circles to create hotbeds of tension in the service of U.S. and Israeli hostility.

Leader Al-Asad's visit to the USSR is an important step in making the Arab decision stronger than the comprehensive U.S. plot. This visit has forced the imperialist circles to immerse themselves in the labyrinths of analysis and explanation and made the Arab forces that are involved in the U.S. conspiracy think of the serious consequences of their treacherous behavior.

As leader Al-Asad said, Syria will only accede to the Arab decision. Syria is committed to defending the Arab homeland, not only because Syria is a confrontation state, but also because Syria adheres to the pan-Arab doctrine and its principled stand against imperialism and Zionism and their plans.

If the parties participating in the U.S. plot have tried to lead the Arabs to despair and to having no confidence in themselves and in their nation's capabilities, then Syria--with all its determination, insistence and will--is capable of changing this situation and of imposing results that are in the interest of Arab destiny and existence.

When Al-Asad praises the Soviet role in defending Syria, he is, in fact, asserting that the slogan of strategic balance and strengthening confrontation support and champion the Arab decision and make it stronger than the U.S. decision. Such firm evidences that governs the Syrian-Soviet friendship relations represents the will of every Arab who is honest to his cause and his nation's struggle. This strong relationship contains the response to all plans aimed at liquidating the Arab cause and to all schemes adopted by imperialism and Zionism to peddle the comprehensive plot against the Arab nation's destiny and existence.

CSO: 4400/195

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

BRIEFS

PAKISTANI GANG ARRESTED--The investigation and intelligence department at the Abu Dhabi nationality and immigration directorate managed to arrest a seven-member Pakistani gang which forges residence permits and passport stamps in the country. The gang was arrested when a residence permit on a passport of one of the Pakistanis was found to be incorrect when he was departing Abu Dhabi international airport. [Excerpt] [Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 3 Jul 85 pp 1, 2 GF]

SOMALI CONSULATE, AIR ROUTE--Abu Dhabi, 8 Jul (GNA) -- The Somali ambassador to the UAE told AL-ITTIHAD today that during his meeting yesterday with Shaykh Hamdan Ibn Rashid, UAE finance and industry ministry, that Somalia has decided to open a consulate in the Emirate of Dubai and inaugurate a direct airline route between Dubayy and Mogadishu. [Text] [Doha GNA in Arabic 0645 GMT 8 Jul 85 GF]

INFILTRATORS ARRESTED--Umm al-Guwayn, 8 Jul (GNA) -- A fisherman in the Emirate of Umm al-Guwayn in the UAE has arrested three infiltrators who boarded a ferry at sea and landed on an island in the emirate. The court sentenced them to 7 years' imprisonment and will deport them. [Summary] [[Doha GNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 8 Jul 85 GF]

UAE-EGYPT SEA LINK--Abu Dhabi, 7 Jul (WAKH) -- Ra's al-Khaymah, UAE and Egypt will be linked by a shipping line in early August. The UAE newspaper AL-ITTIHAD quoted Director General of the UAE-based Ibn Majid Shipping and Clearing Company Muhammad 'Isa Burguah as saying that the company signed an agreement with the Arab Navigation Company in Egypt to link Egypt and Ra's al-Rhaymah by a fortnightly service. Mr Burghah said eight ships are being prepared to carry goods between Ra's al-Khaymah and Alexandria through the Suez Port. Meanwhile, AL-ITTIHAD said that Ra's al-Khaymah, and Egypt have signed an agreement with Lloyds of London to carry out certain measures in connection with the new service. [Text] [Manama WAKH in English 1518 GMT 17 Jul 85 GF]

CSO: 4400/191

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

NEW ENVOY TO DPRK--Ibrahim 'abdallah al-Sa'idi, our ambassador to the PRC, has presented his credentials as nonresident PDRY ambassador to the DPRK. This came today during his meeting with the DPRK vice premier and foreign minister in Pyongyang. [Excerpts] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Jul 85 GF]

CSO: 4400/189

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REVIEWED

Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 Apr 85 p 3

[Interview with Hasan al-Huraybi, director general of the Central Highlands Agricultural Development Project, by Riyadh Shamsan; "The Project Will Encompass 16,500 Hectares in the Governorates of San'a' and Dhamar and Will Provide Services To Help Rural Society Advance and Increase Agricultural Production" date and place not specified]

[Text] Agricultural guidance is the project's main thrust. It will focus on facilities which were damaged by earthquakes.

The director general of the project:

Agriculture has been known and practiced in Yemen for a long time. The Koran and various history books attest to this in their references to the system of dams and irrigation networks and the construction of terraces on the mountain slopes. The fact that the agricultural system is based on cooperative traditions makes the success of today's cooperative farming associations easier to achieve. Throughout history, Yemeni agriculture has been subject to cycles of prosperity and poverty due to the circumstances prevailing in the country.

Today, along with the general progress being made in all areas under the leadership of our pioneering president, the secretary general of the National People's Congress, agricultural development is also receiving the attention it deserves. Particular attention is being given to the less developed areas which have a more pressing need for development efforts. Evidence of this special attention may be seen in the various agricultural projects being implemented throughout the republic. Among these projects is a comprehensive rural development project in the central highlands. Hasan al-Huraybi, the director general of the project, spoke to us about the project's goals.

He said, "The goal of the central highlands project is to develop the area in which it is being implemented and to raise production levels by means of the following:

"Starting irrigation projects.

"Planting coffee and fruit trees.

"Improving nurseries.

"Establishing a branch of the Agricultural Loan Bank at the site of the project in Dhamar.

"Building rural roads.

"Implementing drinking water projects.

"Building agricultural information and training centers and establishing agricultural training programs.

"Conducting home economics training.

"Carrying out studies on subterranean water, dams and the second phase of the project."

The Area of the Project

[Question] Which areas will be included in the project? Where will financing come from?

[Answer] The project will cover an area of approximately 16,500 hectares in the governorates of Sanaa and Dhamar, concentrated in the following 5 areas of the Governorate of Sanaa--Inner al-Himah, Outer al-Himah, Bani Matar, Bilad al-Rus and Sinhan--and the following 5 areas of the Governorate of Dhamar--Dhamar, al-Huda, Ma'bar, Dawran and Jabal al-Sharq. The project will benefit more than 46,500 people. It will be financed by the International Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. The Agency for Overseas Development will also participate by providing technical assistance.

[Question] Since the project is being applied in Dhamar, which suffers from earthquakes, will any special precautions be taken?

[Answer] The purpose of the project is both to provide services designed to bring progress to rural society and to increase agricultural production in the areas in which it will be applied in both Sanaa and Dhamar. However, during the course of the project priority must be given to facilities in Dhamar which have been damaged by earthquakes. These facilities--such as irrigation wells and canals--will undergo restoration and maintenance and will be reinforced.

Agricultural Guidance

[Question] To what extent is the project concerned with agricultural guidance?

[Answer] Agricultural guidance is the main feature of the project. The project will build 4 farm office buildings and 21 guidance centers as well as houses for the employees of the guidance centers. The required public transportation facilities will also be established in order to implement the various agricultural guidance programs. These centers will be staffed by specialists in agricultural training, crop production, animal husbandry, farm mechanization and home economics.

Coordination

[Question] What is the extent of coordination between the project and the agencies connected with it?

[Answer] Because of the nature of the project, involving as it does comprehensive, or partially comprehensive, development, there must be coordination and cooperation among various agencies. In particular, there must be cooperation on a national scale for the sake of development. The farm cooperatives are particularly important. A home economics program, including a program to eliminate illiteracy, may possibly be implemented as part of the project. Therefore, coordination will be required with the ministries of education and social affairs and labor as well as with the Yemeni Organization of Women.

Native Cadres

[Question] What can you tell us about the native cadres on the project?

[Answer] As far as the use of skilled personnel is concerned, a wonderful phenomenon is the emerging role of native cadres in leadership positions as managers and technicians. They are replacing foreign experts in certain areas such as financial and administrative affairs, hydrology and fruit cultivation. There is a program which will enable a number of similar serious individuals to develop their skills and follow in the footsteps of their colleagues to take their natural place as qualified Yemeni experts supervising the implementation of technical projects.

9123

CSO: 4404/334

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TO RAISE FARM YIELDS, LIVING STANDARD

Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 29 Apr 85 p 3

[Article by Muhammad Jassar: "The Goal of the Southern Highlands Rural Development Project Is To Increase Agricultural Production and Develop the Rural Areas in the Districts of Ta'izz and Ibb"]

[Text] Intensive efforts are being made to give peasant women the opportunity to contribute more to the progress of society.

The Southern Highlands Rural Development Project is a very important agricultural development project. Its goal is to increase farm yields and raise the standard of living in the rural farming areas of Ta'izz and Ibb. The project will cover a total area of 50,000 hectares. Its services will be provided to about 500 villages in which about 21,000 rural families live. The project was started in early 1976 and has provided its services in stages. The first phase was from 1976 to 1981. The second phase began in 1981 and extends to 1986. What services does the plan provide, and to whom? How does it provide these services? Where does the project fit in our overall agricultural development? We will attempt to answer all these questions through a hasty investigation we made to observe the activities of the Southern Highlands Rural Development Project.

Two Primary Goals

We spoke first with Ghazi Nasir, the director general of the project, about the main goals of the project and the area where it is being implemented.

He said, "In general, the project has two main goals:

"1. Increasing farm production and family income in rural areas by providing a number of services in the governorates of Ta'izz and Ibb. This will be done by setting up guidance centers and farm offices and providing veterinary and livestock services. The project will also provide citizens with farm loans through the Agricultural Loan Bank and will set up training fields on farms and in fruit orchards. There will also be evening seminars and meetings with the farmers at which various farm matters will be discussed and at which the farmers can be made aware of new information. Other services the project will provide are crop protection and the setting up of home economics programs to train peasant women and improve their skills.

"There will also be programs to combat various livestock diseases and provide information to those who want to start or enlarge poultry farms or apiaries or introduce new herds of Frisian cows.

"2. The project's second goal is social and consists of two parts. The first is to ensure adequate sources of clean drinking water for the inhabitants of rural areas. This will be accomplished by implementing drinking water projects in various areas. As part of this program a small statistical unit has been set up primarily to gather data to help combat bilharzia.

"The second part is to help prepare studies for the construction of rural roads."

Agricultural Development Year

What accomplishments did the Southern Highlands Project achieve for farms and farmers in 1984 as part of Agricultural Development Year?

The director general of the project answered, "We view progress on the farm as continuous, not linked to Agricultural Development Year. Farming is the backbone of economic and social development in our country. Last year the project was able to double the number of newly planted fruit and coffee plants. In the nurseries of Warzan and Ibb, planting has gone from about 250,000 plants to about 500,000. Over the course of the year the project also completed 30 water projects which meet the water needs of 1,000 rural inhabitants."

Agricultural Guidance

During our tour in the various offices and divisions of the Southern Highlands Rural Development Project we met with Engr Tawfiq 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Saqqaf, who told us about one aspect of the project, agricultural guidance.

Agricultural guidance is one of the most outstanding services offered by the project to Yemeni farmers in the area covered by the project through 65 guidance centers and 7 farm offices. Agricultural guidance plays a major role in achieving the most important goals of the project. Among the most important activities carried out by the Bureau of Agricultural Guidance are the meetings and night classes on agriculture which have greatly benefited the farmers. From July 1981 to December 1984 these evening classes and meetings were attended by about 55,127 farmers, some of whom attended more than 1 session. In addition, local farm leaders and educators were selected and trained, and training fields were set up for many crops. During that period 47 publications providing agricultural guidance were printed and distributed. We are also engaged in various other activities, such as holding country fairs, of which 12 have been held so far.

Crop Protection

What about protecting crops and combating plant diseases?

We asked the people in the protection division about this. They gave the following answer:

As far as crop protection is concerned, the second phase of the Southern Highlands Project, from 1981 to 1986, is to focus on the following:

- Combating plant diseases in the training nurseries, orchards and fields in order to produce healthy seedlings to give to the farmers and training the farmers in the correct methods of combating plant diseases.
- Organizing and managing the fight against diseases and participating in national campaigns such as the al-Jadmi campaigns to combat diseases of the mango and other crops.
- Training competent native cadres by holding intensive training seminars and specialized classes at home and abroad.
- Publishing technical guidance bulletins with colored slides on the most serious plant diseases in the area covered by the project, with methods of combating them, and teaching the farmers how to use poisons.

Nurseries and Orchards

One of the most important divisions of the project is the horticulture division, which, through its programs and activities, is helping to improve nurseries, is setting up and improving fruit and coffee orchards for training purposes and is working to determine which areas are suitable for all kinds of different crops.

The Warzan Nursery, with an area of about 3 hectares, is one of the most outstanding nurseries in the project. It includes evergreen fruit, such as citrus fruit, mango, papaya, guava and coffee, in addition to forest trees and ornamental trees.

Similarly, the Ibb nursery operates an area of 8 hectares and includes deciduous trees, such as peach, pomegranate, ficus carica, walnut and almond. For the first time in the agricultural history of our country, we have introduced strawberries.

'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad 'Abd-al-Latif, deputy head of the horticulture division, spoke to us about the training orchards which are being set up in the various areas. He said, "The division set up the first training orchards in 1982, when it set up 10. In 1983, 21 were added; in 1984, 62 were added; and in 1985, there are plans to set up an approximately 50 additional training orchards for various kinds of fruit. The purpose of these training orchards is, of course, to train farmers to farm properly by practical methods. We grow fruit on the farmers' land, and then we tend it with fertilizer and protect it from disease. In this way we help spread fruit cultivation in the region."

Women Have a Role

Women play a central role in rural life, since a large part of agricultural activity falls on their shoulders--particularly in view of the fact that men tend to migrate from the Yemeni countryside--and since they are the ones who care for various kinds of livestock. The people who are implementing the Southern Highlands Project are aware of this fact, and they are giving women the attention they deserve, commensurate with their role in rural development. The home economics division of the project is working to educate peasant women and help them acquire various skills which will help them do their work and, as a result, to increase the income of peasant families through the women's increased effectiveness in helping to develop their little peasant society.

Activities

We met with Fayizah 'Abduh Sa'id, the head of the home economics division, who spoke with us about the division's activities. She said, "The division has many important activities. They are important because women play an important part in the Yemeni countryside. We are working to develop women's skills in farm production and in raising various kinds of livestock, and we are helping them acquire manual skills which will enable them to pursue certain manual professions.

"To this end we have given many classes in farming, in female farm leadership training and in female manual skills leadership training at 40 training centers for peasant women. These centers were built, and their work supported, mostly through the efforts of the cooperatives. The division's most important activities are the following:

"Setting up model home gardens for peasant women and distributing vegetable seeds, fertilizer and pesticides.

"Distributing egg-laying chickens to rural women at a token price to help raise the standard of living in the peasant home.

"Encouraging peasant women to take an interest in field crops by distributing seeds, fertilizer and pesticides and teaching them how to farm, harvest and store grain and fruit properly.

"In cooperation with the health center and the Swedish Hospital the division is training peasant women how to apply simple first aid with a home medicine kit. In addition, publications and posters which offer guidance in family health are being distributed.

"The division is focusing its activities on maternity and childhood care by teaching women to concern themselves with their own and their children's nutrition both before and after pregnancy and by encouraging them to rely on breast feeding and so on.

"The division is training peasant women in certain manual skills and is encouraging the traditional skills which are to be found in every village. This can help to raise the family income level and preserve our folk heritage.

"The division is distributing books through anti-illiteracy programs in co-operation with the Ministry of Education."

Livestock Resources

There are two aspects to farming, vegetable and animal, and the animal aspect has not been neglected. The division of livestock resources has two areas of concern: veterinary and livestock production. Dr Muhammad Yahya Hamid spoke about veterinary activities.

"The division is engaged in several activities, such as combating gastric diseases and internal and external parasites and treating common diseases and problems of parturition. It also performs surgery and is making an attempt to eradicate diseases common to both humans and animals. It is also in charge of veterinary clinics and provides veterinary help in the governorates of Ta'izz and Ibb. It is in charge of supervising poultry farms."

Improving Production

Dr Muhammad Ahmad al-Najjar, the head of the livestock production division, spoke about the activities of his division.

"The principal goal of all of the division's activities is to increase the production of livestock resources--cows, sheep, chickens, bees and so on. To this end we have distributed 22 virgin Frisian cows to the farmers. We have also built a concentrated fodder mill, the primary purpose of which is educational, and special green fodder has been planted in fields in which it has never before been grown. Farmers are being trained to set aside specific areas for growing fodder.

"As far as apiculture is concerned, 116 modern hives have been distributed and the bees have been transferred from their old hives to the new ones. The experiment has proven to be a great success.

"As far as poultry farming is concerned, in addition to providing technical supervision over the project's poultry farm, the division is carrying out studies on the economic and technical feasibility of establishing poultry farms in various places. The division also conducts all kinds of educational programs for the farmers on all of the topics mentioned above."

Fodder Factory

Speaking about the first fodder factory of its kind in our country, the Concentrated Fodder Factory, 'Ali Muhammad Maqtari said, "The factory began operation in late 1984. Its function is to provide the farmers with concentrated fodder. The factory consists of a training laboratory designed to teach the farmers about concentrated fodder to improve the level of their animals' nutrition. The factory has a production capacity of approximately 1 ton an hour, which, in accordance with the program, is a reasonable quantity. As a result, we currently have sufficient quantities of fodder."

Rural Information

While agricultural training and enlightenment are the most conspicuous of the project's activities, the backbone of agricultural training is the division of rural information. This division disseminates information to the farmers in the rural areas through pictures, word of mouth and the written word, using educational films and color pictures and slides which are shown during the evening classes. It also issues publications and distributes posters which contain the most important directives and the latest methods which the farmers are required to implement

Rural information is effective in the evening classes and at the various farm meetings.

9123

CSO: 4404/334

AFGHANISTAN

SOVIET-AFGHAN FORCES EDGE ON BARIKOT BORDER GARRISON

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 6 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, 5 Jun (Dispatches)--Some 10,000 Soviet and Afghan troops, backed by tanks and aircraft, marched to the Afghan border garrison of Barikot to relieve troops who have been besieged by guerrillas for a year, western diplomats said Tuesday.

Soviet paratroopers and helicopter-borne troops spearheaded the drive, said the diplomats, who asked that their names not be used.

Diplomats said a joint Soviet-Afghan force of about 10,000 men headed for the besieged post just a mile (1,500 m) from the Pakistani border. Afghan Mujahideen sources said the Soviet-Afghan force, had moved within 15 miles (24 km) of the Barikot garrison.

Diplomats said the Soviets had not yet broken the year-long guerrilla siege of Barikot but had cut its supply lines.

The approach of the Soviet-Afghan column heightened tensions along the Pakistani border.

Barikot faces the Pakistani border outpost at Arandu. The Soviet offensive, described as the most powerful since the Soviet invaded Afghanistan in 1979, has spilled into northern Pakistan, Pakistani officials said.

Last Friday, two Afghan MiGs dropped 13 bombs on Swir, a hamlet 15 miles (24 km) northwest of Arandu on the Chitral River, killing 13 people and injuring 32 others. Reporters were flown to see the devastation and heard Lt. Col Murad Khan Nayyer report that Afghan Soviet-made MiG aircraft crossed into Pakistani airspace near the Chitral Monday morning.

Journalists were shown craters in fields strewn with debris. They saw two unexploded Soviet-made bombs, each weighing about 500 pounds (225 kg).

Aziz Khan, a doctor who examined some victims of the bombing in the civilian hospital in nearby Darosh, said most of the injured were hit with shrapnel. The physician said he treated 24 victims and transferred four of them to the district hospital at Chitral.

For the second day in a row, the bombing of Swir was condemned by members of the National Assembly in Islamabad.

Meanwhile, U.S. State Department officials disclosed last week that U.S. and Soviet officials would meet sometime this month to discuss the situation in Afghanistan.

CSO: 4600/508

25 July 1985

AFGHANISTAN

KABUL DENIES USE OF TOY BOMBS

LD072353 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Jul 85

[Text] A BIA political commentator writes:

The slanderous propaganda wave against revolutionary Afghanistan is continuing and [words indistinct] to conceal the true face of the revolution behind the smokescreen of lies and trickery.

(Juergen Boegun Hoepfer), a member of the FRG Parliament and Christian Democratic Party, who serves on the Foreign Relations Committee of that country's parliament and is a famous name for hysterical animosity against the people of Afghanistan, has alleged that explosives shaped like children's toys have been utilized in the fight against counterrevolutionaries. He was not able to put forward any evidence whatsoever for this empty claim. (Juergen Hoepfer), who is renowned for anti-Soviet provocations and as an initiator of fabrications, has entered DRA soil with the cooperation of the Afghan counterrevolutionary band contrary to international norms and state laws. He undoubtedly had come to our country for subversion and to accomplish the mission which had been assigned to him by espionage organizations, most of all by the CIA, just like other spies and people similar to him. In addition to anti-Soviet fabrications, (Hoepfer) has lied about our country for a very long time. Evidence shows that (Hoepfer) is a professional in carrying out such foul missions. He is the secretary of the Military Affairs Committee in the FRG Parliament. He is renowned for being a reactionary who does not hide his neo-fascist inclinations.

(Juergen Hoepfer) also serves on a five-member committee for assistance to the so-called refugees in West Germany. In addition he is the organizer of assistance by the FRG to the Afghan counterrevolution, which amounted to DM45 million during 1363 [year ending 21 March 1985]. However he was not able, and will not be able, to provide witnesses to what he says about the toy bombs--because there is no such witness and there will never be one. And these are the Afghan counterrevolutionary bands who are making use of such inhuman and criminal means for the killing of innocent Afghan children.

During a press conference which was recently held in Kabul before the country's and foreign media representatives, various tools for mass killing including small mines in the shape of children's toys, pens, torches and other small mines, time bombs, silent pistols and other material and tools which are being placed and delivered in cars and means of transportation, were put on show that had been captured from the criminal counterrevolutionary bands were displayed. A number of victims of the aggression of the counterrevolutionaries, who had been spared from their foul actions, provided this information in the course of the above press conference.

The fact is that U.S. imperialism and some of its partners in NATO also, overtly and covertly, have begun individual and mass terror against our revolution and people through the CIA. (Hoepfer) and imperialism both, however, with all their possibilities and the systems of lies and fabrication at their disposal have not succeeded in covering the bright and clear facts about the national-democratic revolution of our people. The aspiration of our revolution is a humane aspiration and at the interest of man. The path of aspiration of the April revolution, is [words indistinct] with such criminal actions. These actions are the deeds of those who have caused the deprivation of tens of thousands of Vietnamese children as a result of their crimes; it is the deeds of those who have raised terrorism to their state policy.

CSO: 4600/515

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

YOUTHS ENLIST IN MILITARY--Some 100 youths of Herat Province have gone voluntarily to the military commissariat of Herat Province and were organized in one of the tribal battalions of Herat. [Excerpt] [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 14 Jul 85]

CSO: 4600/515

IRAN

TEHRAN ATTACKS REAGAN FOR REMARKS DEALING WITH TERRORISM

LD091733 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Text] Libyan Radio today announced: Libya and the four countries of Iran, Nicaragua, North Korea, and Cuba, which U.S. President Ronald Reagan has referred to as terrorist countries, are only countries which oppose U.S. policy aimed at swallowing up the world.

According to an AP report Libya has referred to Reagan as a terrorist announcing that these five countries are the only countries to oppose the policies of the United States which is planning to control the world and guarantee U.S. superiority in the coming nuclear confrontation with the opposite side.

On the other hand the paper AL-WAHDAH from Abu Dhabi, in a commentary on Ronald Reagan's remarks, accused the United States of planning and carrying out terrorist actions throughout the world, particularly in the Third World and the Arab countries. According to the Central News Unit the paper wrote: U.S. terrorism in the Arab countries is being carried out directly by its acolytes in the region, particularly Israel. In conclusion the paper AL-WAHDAH criticized Reagan's remarks and wrote: The U.S. President has given details of what he considers to be terrorist operations against the United States between 1983-84, whereas the U.S. President forgot to give details of terrorist operations which his administration has carried out against the world.

CSO: 4640/633

IRAN

EMIGRE PAPER COMMENTS ON ISSUES LEADING TO 'DEATH OF NATION'

Paris IRAN LIBRE in French 3 Jun 85 p 1

[Paris IRAN LIBRE in French; weekly published by Azadeh Shafiq, daughter of Ashraf Pahlavi: "Death of a Nation"]

[Text] Six years after the revolution, the situation of Iranian refugees is becoming increasingly dramatic. They have a difficult time surviving in a capitalist world hit directly by the economic crisis. They number in the thousands in Europe and America only to be caught without work and unable to become part of a blocked society. As for those who emigrated to the Near East, they are in the greatest possible state of destitution.

The situation at home is just as catastrophic. It is not in vain that the great majority of intellectuals and technicians have left the country. Deprived of its elite, Iran is decapitated. Cadres are scarce in all areas and rungs of the social hierarchy. Such a loss is unprecedented. Revolutionary France could count on its bourgeoisie to fill in the void left by the nobility's departure. Soviet Russia could find among revolutionary circles the people who could replace the Czar's faithful. As to Iran, it has no such solution. Mullahs are omnipresent but totally incompetent, except in the field of theology. The nation, bled white, is totally disabled.

The future cannot bring any improvement. The opposite is true. Under the cover of religion, the Islamic Republic destroyed the structures of national education. Tens of institutions among the more famous were abolished; the university of Tehran itself remained closed for years. The level of studies, when it is possible to study, has dropped in calamitous proportions. The upcoming generations, deliberately sacrificed, cannot take over.

Their shortcomings are already being felt harshly. The Iraqi air force would never have dared to bomb Tehran during the imperial era. It ventures to do so today for it knows very well that it will not face its natural opponents. The best pilots of the Iranian air force were driven out at the beginning of the subversion when they were not arrested or executed. They were never replaced and the same shortage shows up in all sectors of military activity. Warfare today is based on science. It is with engineers as much as with soldiers that it can be won. Courage alone no longer suffices to ensure victory on the battle field. There is no other explanation for the guardians of the revolution's lack of progress at the front. What is true of war is a fortiori true of peace.

What would be the importance of tremendous resources to a community unable to exploit them? By pretending to return to the first centuries of the hegira, Khomeyni is wrecking the country. What would be the industrial future of an Iran reduced to the status of an underdeveloped country? No recovery is currently possible, for it would imply a policy of appeasement by allowing the refugees to return home. The regime is incapable of this. Born of terror, it can only survive through terror. Arbitrary imprisonments and summary executions continue to follow each other at the same pace. Return is unthinkable under such circumstances. The exodus goes on, draining Iran of its life's blood.

This process can end only by asking for outside help. The day will come when the Islamic Republic will no longer be able to ensure the basic running of the administration. It will then ask for help either from the Soviets or the West. The two traditional oppressors of Iran, the Russian and the Anglo-Saxon, will then reappear as masters in Tehran.

A victim of his excesses, prisoner of his own role, Khomeyni is caught in a situation over which he has no control. An unrelenting fate forces him to become the opposite of what he wants to be. Theorist of anti-Zionism, he has already become, whether he likes it or not, the protégé of Israel. Cantor of anti-imperialism, he is well on his way to a place in history as the harbinger of neocolonialism.

6857

CSO: 4619/57

IRAN

BARZANI LAUDS, DEFENDS CLERICAL REGIME AT PRESS CONFERENCE

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 May 85 p 2

/Text/ Urumiyeh - ETTELA'AT correspondent: Mas'ud Barzani, secretary general of the Kordestan Democratic Party of Iraq took part in a TV-radio and press conference in Urumiyeh and answered various questions which were put to him by the correspondents.

In answer to this question: What have been the accomplishments of the Democratic Party of Kordestan at the threshold of its 40th anniversary for the Iraqi nation, particularly the Kordestan inhabitants? Mr Barzani stated: The Democratic Party of Kordestan has had an effective role in the struggles of the Iraqi nation. He went on to add: From the beginning of the influence of the British colonization and the formation of the Iraqi monarchy the people of Kordestan region have always been deprived of the legal rights and they have always been subject to pressure, torture and deprivation.

He also said: The Iraqi Democratic Party of Kordestan during the past years has always been actively present in the forefront of the Iraqi people's struggles against British colonization and its dependent regime.

35,000 Martyrs

Mas'ud Barzani also noted: The Democratic Party played an effective role in the victory of the revolution in 1958 for Iraq, however, as of 1961 the then existent Iraqi regime, like the former regimes of this country, began to suppress the people of Kordestan which resulted in the struggles of the Democratic Party. He added: In the political life of the Iraqi Democratic Party of Kordestan there have been many victories and defeats. During its struggles against colonization and its dependent regime in Iraq, this party has given more than 35,000 martyrs. He went on to say: The victory of March 11, 1970 for the Iraqi Kordestan people came about as a result of the loss of thousands of martyrs and this was the biggest victory in the history of the struggles of the Democratic Party.

On the one hand, in 1973 simultaneously with the Arab-Israeli war, the United States made great efforts to take advantage of the opportunity by using the Iraqi Kords to defeat or suppress the Iraqi army and supposedly liberate Kordestan; however, Mulla Mostafa Barzani, then the leader of the party, announced that not only were the Kords not the enemies of the Arabs, but they considered

them as their brothers and considered the cruel regime of Iraq as their enemies, the regime which had destroyed many Kord-inhabited villages and killed and burned unaccounted numbers of innocent children and women.

Mas'ud Barzani added: The announcement of this policy did not seem of interest to the United States and thus they were forced to bring about the Algerian accord. Therefore, the tripartite forces of Iraq, Turkey and those of the detested shah unified in order to militarily suppress the struggles of the Iraqi Kordestan people.

Beginning of New Struggle

The secretary general of the Iraqi Democratic Party of Kordestan stated: After this party endured some blows, in May 1976 it re-emerged with better possibilities and even more strength and began its struggles anew.

Support of the Islamic Revolution

In answer to the question by the ETTELA'AT correspondent regarding the effects of the Islamic revolution of Iran on Iraqi Kordestan, Barzani said: Not only for the Kordestan movement but most certainly for all the liberal movements of the world, the Islamic revolution of Iran was a new experience. This victory not only inspires hope for the Iranian Muslims alone, but also fills the freedom-seeking and innocent people of the world with expectation--the downfall of the sinister regime of Pahlavi is considered a great victory for the Kordish people.

With the downfall of the shah the CENTO pact disintegrated and the interests of imperialism in the region were badly damaged. This was a kind of victory for the oppressed people of the world and we are indebted to the Islamic Republic of Iran under the leadership of imam Khomeyni for this victory. As of the beginning of the Islamic revolution the stance of the Iraqi Democratic Party of Kordestan versus this revolution and its support and protection has been very clear. When the eminent imam was in Paris and I intended to pay a visit to him, the terrorists in the Iraqi embassy in Paris made an attempt on my life when two of my friends became wounded and thus we faced some difficulties in visiting the imam.

As a result we had to send another body of men to visit the imam and express our complete support for the Islamic revolution of Iran.

Also after the victory of the Islamic revolution at the end of 1979 in the party congress it was decided that we should announce our support for the Islamic Revolution of Iran in a very determined and clear fashion and stated that for the purpose of thwarting plots hatched by imperialism we would not desist from any sacrifice or efforts.

Imposition of War on Iran

In another part of his remarks Mas'ud Barzani stated: The victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran from a tactical and strategic viewpoint entails the security,

self-confidence and tranquility for the region and that the fortress of the Islamic Republic of Iran is so firm and sure that without any fear of all the existing problems throughout the world it stands up and very decisively expresses its decisions.

As regards the imposed war he said: There is no doubt that Saddam has started the war against Islamic Iran and he has been supported and assisted by the United States and its dependent regimes in the region. The victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran has created great transformations in the region, and the oppressed people of the world consider the victory of the revolution as their own victory.

He went on to add: When Saddam sensed the downfall of his regime on the orders of the United States and with the support of the reactionary regimes of the region, it imposed the war on Iran so that perhaps U.S. interests in the region could be saved and the dependent regimes would still remain dependent.

He added: The United States was awfully frightened by the Islamic revolution of Iran and thus it was determined not to let this revolution spread to other oppressed and deprived countries; therefore, for this reason, contrary to the wishes of the Iraqi Muslims, it started this cruel war and imposed it on Iran. Of course, it had mistakenly thought that within a week it could end the war with the victory of Saddam and the defeat of the Islamic revolution, though it turned out to be a grave mistake and thank God we all saw that all the plots against the Islamic revolution faced defeat and God willing, the war will end with the final victory of the Islamic combatants.

Also from the very beginning we condemned the aggression of the Iraqi Zionist regime and considered Saddam's regime as cruel and the aggressor and still believe so.

At every possible opportunity by condemning the Saddam regime we have supported Iran and we believe that this war, which was imposed on Iran by Saddamites, in no way has been or will be in the interest of the Iraqi nation. We further hope that with the downfall of Saddam this war will come to an end.

Confused Economic Situation of Iraq

In answer to the question of one of the correspondents Mas'ud Barzani stated: According to the information which we have received, the economic situation of Iraq is gravely disheveled and the Ba'th regime of Iraq is in debt to the tune of 100 billion dollars. At the beginning of the imposed war this regime had between 37 to 40 billion dollars in reserve (backing its foreign exchange trade) which has all been spent now.

From 3 million barrels the oil export of Iraq has decreased to something between 600 to 700 thousand barrels a day and if the foreign assistance, particularly

the aid provided by the reactionary regimes of the region did not exist, the ruling regime of Iraq would not last long. Also from a political viewpoint the Iraqi regime has quite clearly revealed its dependency on the United States and by committing a crime against the Palestinian ideology it has proven that this regime is not following a firm policy.

Necessity for the Alliance of the Forces

In his interview with the correspondents Mas'ud Barzani also stated: After consecutive defeats on the Iranian battlefields, I have to admit frankly that the technical and military cadres of Iraq are quite disintegrated and as far as the social viewpoint is concerned, the Iraqi Ba'th-Zionist regime is quite isolated since the Saddam regime merely uses the people for a war in which they have no interest at all. For this reason, the Iraqi Democratic Party of Kurdistan is opposed to any assistance, especially military assistance, to the Iraqi regime and demands the discontinuation of such aid.

Also he added: We believe that if all the Iraqi parties and personalities who are opposed to the Iraqi regime become united and form a solidarity, the downfall of Saddam will come about sooner. He said: Certainly 90 percent of the Iraqi people are interested in the downfall of the Iraqi regime and are ready for any kind of sacrifice and self-devotion in order to accomplish this objective.

Respect For the Islamic Movement

While noting that the people of Iraq completely respect the Islamic movement, Mas'ud Barzani added: This movement has had thousands of martyrs and particularly in the past few years the number of its martyrs has been very great.

In 1967 on behalf of the leader of the party, I paid a visit to the Ayatollah Hakim who was very respected by the people of Kurdistan to express our appreciation to him. This was in connection with the issue where the Iraqi regime had asked Ayatollah Hakim to issue a religious decree stating that the war with the Kurds and their killing is religiously lawful, while Ayatollah said that on the contrary the Kurds are oppressed people and the Iraqi regime is cruel and unjust.

Concerning his recent trip to Libya and Syria he said: This trip was intended to strengthen our relations with the Arab liberal movement since our enemies have always publicized that the Kurds are enemies of the Arabs. Also on this trip we became acquainted with the stances of both leaders of Libya and Syria versus the imposed war and the two leaders quite clearly announced their support for the movement of Iraqi people which is trying to bring down the Saddam regime and the righteousness of the Islamic Republic of Iran and aggression of Saddam's regime.

Enormity of Imam's Message

While pointing to the fact that the victory of the Islamic revolution was an historical victory for the Kurdish people and they should have taken the best advantage of this historical opportunity, he also discussed the crimes of the

minigroups who are opposed to the Islamic revolution and noted: These groups have knowingly committed crimes against the Kordish people and the Islamic Republic--they have committed the gravest crimes against the Kords and then against the Islamic revolution of Iran--since these people who did not understand the significance and enormity of the message of imam Khomeyni as far as Kordestan was concerned, today they have no right to claim that they are the representatives of the people.

He went on to add: These groups joined forces with Saddam against the Islamic Republic and the first condition of Saddam for such an alliance was that these groups ought to stand in opposition to the struggles of the Iraqi Kordish people against the Ba'th regime.

They martyred more than 200 of our people and they did not even spare the lives of the families who had escaped the wrath of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime to the vicinity of Oshnoviyeh--among these people there were infants and seventy year old individuals. Wherever they could they confronted us against our fight with the Iraqi regime, but god willing today they have lost their face and reputation with the Kordish people and gradually they are dying out.

With regard to the rumor about Qasemlu's request for a visit with him, he said: I did not know that Qasemlu has become so low in character and morals. He added: Qasemlu has not done anything that even make me consider a visit with him one day and he knows well if ever I announce my readiness he would not hesitate to jump at the opportunity and come to us as fast as he can.

As far as he himself is concerned or even from the national viewpoint Qasemlu has committed such actions that make the possibility of his visit with me impossible. Through plotting such a rumor he thought that he could create a rift in our relations with the Islamic Republic or somehow be able to boost the morale of remnants of his minigroups. This rumor was so ridiculous that we never even thought of denying it, however, in order to stop the spread of further tittle-tattle, we sent an official circular through the political bureau to all branches and systems of the party and right now I announce that we have never been and will never be ready to visit him.

As regards the issues which concern the Iraqi Kordestan's National Union he said: The abovementioned group has not been practically in the line of struggle and invariably the result of their effort benefits Saddam.

On the other hand, these people do not have political stability and change their entrenchment at whim. This group has cooperated with all the ruling regimes of Iraq and in 1983 it was openly attracted to Saddam's regime, and this was a plot whereby the United States and France had planned to secure Saddam's perpetuity; however, as the downfall of Saddam seemed to be close, with a 180 degree turn this group changed its stance and it seems better or perhaps it would be to their advantage if they severed their own destiny from that of Saddam's. We have no objection to their distancing themselves from

Saddam, but first they have to prove their sincerity in opposing Saddam. They have to announce their posture with regard to the issues pertaining to the region and make a pledge that they have desisted from carrying out acts of sabotage, then we will see.

Accord of Iraq and Turkish Governments

Regarding the newly announced accord between the governments of Turkey and Iraq concerning the problems of northern Iraqi regions, he stated: As a matter of fact, the stance of the Islamic Republic with regard to this issue is very admirable and the effect of such a posture was much more than what I expected. Not only has this had an effect on the Iraqi Kordestan people but it also has had an effect on every other Kord that I've seen and certainly this proper position-taking by the Islamic Republic has been one of the important causes which neutralized the pact.

He said: It is certain that the Turkish government is a member of NATO and we never wish to get involved with that country. If through a particular plan the United States wishes to come to Saddam's rescue and uses us as a pretext, we will be ready to die and never surrender to unfair and illogical force. We are ready to defend and die to the last person; however, if they are looking for an excuse, we have not done anything to harm Turkey.

We are always appreciative of the eminent imam and the responsible authorities of the Islamic Republic who have directed their policy toward defending the cause of humanity and the oppressed people in such an historical moment and this is the first time that we notice such a clear and humanitarian stance being taken by a government.

In one part of this interview in answer to a question, Mas'ud Barzani stated: It is a certain fact that the Iraqi regime has never honored the international agreements and clear evidence of this claim is the imposition of the war, use of chemical bombs and the bombing of residential areas.

We have always expressed our sorrow for the bombardment of the cities and the killing of innocent people, and we are precisely aware of the fact that the Islamic Republic as far as possible, avoids hitting nonmilitary targets. Notwithstanding all this, I have to say that in consideration of all the destruction and damage which has been incurred by the bombardments carried out by the Iraqi regime inside the Islamic Republic, the Iraqi people feel that the Islamic Republic is justified in carrying out any action it pleases.

Arrest of the Guards of Iraqi War Minister

While emphasizing that the Iraqi Democratic Party of Kordestan will continue its own just struggle as before, he stated: During the last one and a half month period the combatants of our party have carried out 125 military operations against Saddam's forces. In these operations a total of 368 persons belonging to Saddam's forces have been either killed or wounded and among them there were eight officers.

Meanwhile, another part of the operation consisted of the arrest of 38 persons, the destruction of 33 military trucks and the execution of 144 political activities--out of these 16 military operations were carried out in the cities which are under the control of Saddam.

He went on to add: One of the most important military operations was carried out on New Year's eve when the party combatants in the town of Dohuk, which has a garrison close by, occupied the town for 24 hours and celebrated the New Year in the homes of the town's inhabitants.

Furthermore, the execution of one of the leaders of the Ba'th party called Mohammad Sa'id in the region which caused the people of the region to observe one day of mourning was one of the other operations of the party during this period.

Thereafter, while he was showing the identification cards of the war minister of Iraw and his guards to the correspondents, he emphasized that in these operations in Dohuk three guards of the minister were arrested.

In conclusion, he emphasized that the majority of the people of Kordestan are Muslims and as oppressed Muslims, they consider the victory of the Islamic revolution as their own victory and they hold the imam in high esteem.

12719

CSO: 4640/598

IRAN

KARRUBI: IRAN KNOWS OF ISLAMIC JIHAD ONLY THROUGH MEDIA

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 6 Jun 85 p 2

[Text] Beirut, 5 Jun (IRNA)--Hojjatoleslam Mehdi Karrubi, heading an Iranian delegation to Lebanon to seek an end to fighting there between the Amal militia and the Palestinians said in an interview with the official Lebanese News Agency that Iran had no special interest in the Islamic Jihad Organization "Because like you, we learn about their existence or nonexistence through the mass media and our information about them is as much as yours."

Asked to comment on U.S. allegations that Iran was involved in the kidnapping of American citizens in Lebanon and the threat of U.S. attacks against Iran if the American hostages are killed in Lebanon. Hojjatoleslam Karrubi said Iran was surprised over U.S. efforts to connect the Islamic Republic with the kidnapping of U.S. citizens in Beirut. "We do not see how this matter can be connected to us. But it is possible that America wants to strike against us on this pretext. Let me state that such attacks will not be easy."

On the fate of Iranian diplomats who were kidnapped in Beirut in 1982, Karrubi said nothing was known about them. "One should ask the Lebanese Government about these Iranian diplomats who were kidnapped by the Kataeb elements in full view of Lebanese security forces. I want to ask Lebanon's Islamic and nationalist forces to apply pressure on the Lebanese Government about the fate of these Iranian diplomats," he added.

Ties With Saudi Arabia Improving

On relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, Karrubi described them as good "and they have been improving recently." "We have common interests with them," he added.

He blamed Iraq for the explosions in the Saudi capital while the Saudi foreign minister was visiting Iran and said Iraq is afraid of closer ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the countries of the region.

On relations between Iran and Syria, the Majlis deputy said these relations were excellent. "On the issue of the Beirut clashes, we met with Abdul Halim Khaddam, the Syrian deputy prime minister and were briefed about Syrian efforts to bring these clashes to an end. We agree with Syria that these clashes are the results of plots against the Lebanese and Palestinian people."

Asked if Iran supported the establishment of an Islamic Republic in Lebanon, Hojjatoleslam Karrubi said despite brotherly relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Lebanon, the type of government in Lebanon was a domestic issue for the Lebanese people to decide "since we respect the right of nations to decide their destiny, we will accept any system (of government) which has been approved by the majority of the Lebanese people."

Mediation Success Questioned

Asked about the success of the Iranian delegation in mediating an end to the going Beirut clashes, Karrubi said since the arrival of the group in the Lebanese capital, the fighting had subsided to some degree. "We hope that by continuing our efforts in Damascus, we will obtain even better results, but this is something only time will tell."

On the Iraqi-imposed war, Karrubi said Iran wanted peace more than anyone else. "But the problem here is Saddam and the Iraqi regime which together have blocked the road to peace. With them present, peace will not last and the Iraqi regime cannot give any guarantee for peace."

"As long as this regime, which is infamous for its violation of international regulations and norms rules Iraq, the region will not see peace and calm. We will continue to fight until this regime is toppled," he told the Lebanese News Agency.

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IRAN

BRIEFS

PORTUGUESE ARMS SALES--Arms sales to the Khomeyni regime is one of the problems discussed by the Organization of Mujahiddin of the Iranian People representatives in their international contacts. Portugal plays an important role in them since, according to Hossein Shooja, this country is Iran's main source of arms. He stated that sales of Portuguese arms to Iran reached approximately 3 million contos [1 conto = 1,000 escudos] in 1983 and 1984. This problem has been discussed during contacts with various Portuguese political personalities, notably Portuguese deputies in the European Parliament. [Excerpt] [Lisbon O JORNAL in Portuguese 13 Jun 85 p 20]

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